Y 7.1: N 515/2

William F. Nichols

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
ALABAMA

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES
DELIVERED IN CONGRESS

Y7.1:N 515/2

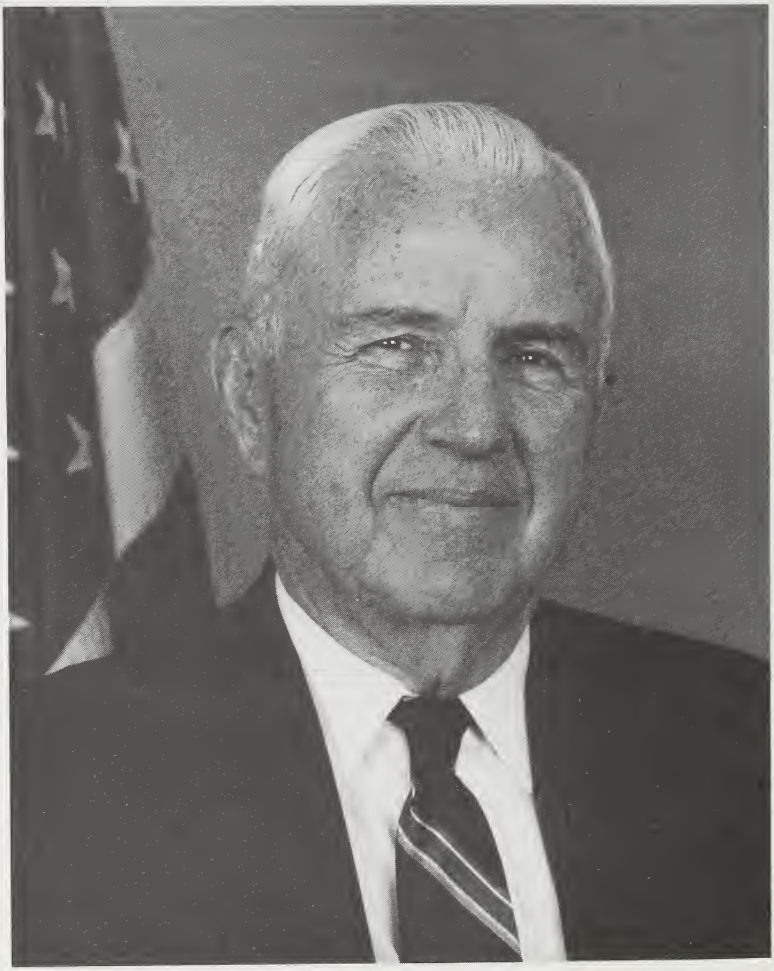
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA LIBRARIES
JUN 12 1990
GOVT. DOCUMENTS DEPT.

UNIV. OF FLORIDA LIBS.
DOCUMENTS
DEPARTMENT
U.S. DEPOSITORY

FLARE

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016

https://archive.org/details/memorialservices00wash_78



Memorial Services

Held in the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States
together with tributes presented in eulogy of

William F. Nichols

Late a Representative from Alabama

One Hundred First Congress
First Session

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1990

25-050

Compiled under the direction
of the
Joint Committee on Printing

CONTENTS

	Page
Proceedings in the House of Representatives:	
Announcement of death by the Honorable William Dickinson of Alabama	1
Resolution of respect	1
Tributes by Representatives:	
Anderson, Glenn M., of California	31
Annunzio, Frank, of Illinois	36
Aspin, Les, of Wisconsin	30
Bateman, Herbert, of Virginia	33
Bennett, Charles E., of Florida	34
Bevill, Tom, of Alabama	21
Byron, Beverly B., of Maryland	23
Callahan, Sonny, of Alabama	4
Conte, Silvio O., of Massachusetts	18
Crane, Philip M., of Illinois	39
Darden, George (Buddy), of Georgia	41
Article from weekly newsletter	41
de la Garza, E (Kika), of Texas	27
Dickinson, William, of Alabama	1, 4, 5, 14, 24
Dyson, Roy, of Maryland	42
Erdreich, Ben, of Alabama	37
Flippo, Ronnie G., of Alabama	10
Harris, Claude, of Alabama	17
Horton, Frank, of New York	35
Hughes, William J., of New Jersey	40
Hutto, Earl, of Florida	8
Jenkins, Ed, of Georgia,	26
Leath, Marvin, of Texas	20
Martin, Davin O'B., of New York	13
Matsui, Robert T., of California	34
Miller, Clarence E., of Ohio	35
Montgomery, G.V. (Sonny), of Mississippi	2, 6
Article by Secretary of the Navy William Ball III	2
Myers, John T., of Indiana	34
Parker, Mike, of Mississippi	1
Pickle, J.J., of Texas	11
Quillen, James H. (Jimmy), of Tennessee	38
Ray, Richard, of Georgia	43
Regula, Ralph, of Ohio	43
Rowland, J. Roy, of Georgia	19

Page

Tributes by Representatives—Continued
Schulze, Richard T., of Pennsylvania 27
Sisisky, Norman, of Virginia 16
Skelton, Ike, of Missouri 3
Spence, Floyd, of South Carolina 28
Stokes, Louis, of Ohio 32
Watkins, Wes, of Oklahoma 39
Poem 40
Whitten, Jamie L., of Mississippi 26
Proceedings in the Senate:
Tributes by Senators:
Heflin, Howell, of Alabama 45
Nunn, Sam, of Georgia 48
Article by Secretary of the Navy William Ball III 48
Shelby, Richard, of Alabama 46
Appendixes:
Newspaper tributes 53

Biography

WILLIAM FLYNT NICHOLS, a Representative from the Third Congressional District of Alabama, was born October 16, 1918 on a small farm near the rural Mississippi town of Becker. Several months later, his family moved to Sylacauga, Ala., where he grew up and made his home. As a high school student, he worked summers in the local textile mill and in one of Sylacauga's local grocery stores. After graduation from Sylacauga High School, Mr. NICHOLS entered Auburn University. During his five years at Auburn, Mr. NICHOLS earned a football scholarship, lettered three years on the football team, and captained the 1940 team. He was accepted to three honorary fraternities: the Blue Key, Gamma Sigma Delta, and the Scabbard and Blade. Auburn University awarded Mr. NICHOLS a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture in 1939 and a Master of Science degree in Agronomy in 1940.

Though offered a professional football contract after graduation, Mr. NICHOLS decided to follow his academic background as the assistant county farm agent in Autauga County, Alabama. There he served in an advisory capacity to area farmers and as a counselor to the county's 4-H Clubs. Mr. NICHOLS had hoped to make a career in agriculture, but America's involvement in World War II changed his plans.

Trained for military service in Auburn University's ROTC program, Mr. NICHOLS entered the Army in 1942 as a second lieutenant and was assigned to the 8th Infantry Division as an artillery officer. Lt. NICHOLS distinguished himself in combat, seeing action in France and Germany. On November 30, 1944, in the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest, Germany, he was critically wounded and was removed from action through the end of the War. In 1947, the U.S. Army retired him at the grade of captain. As a result of his combat action, he was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, as well as three major battle stars.

After his military retirement, Mr. NICHOLS returned to Sylacauga with his wife Carolyn and entered private business with Parker Fertilizer Company and Parker Gin Company. From 1949 to 1967, he became active in civic affairs, serving

on the Board of Stewards of the First Methodist Church of Sylacauga and on the Sylacauga School Board. He also rose in the corporate ranks becoming Vice President of Parker Fertilizer and President of Parker Gin Company. He was a member of the Alabama Farm Bureau, Alabama Cattleman's Association, past president of the Alabama Crop Improvement Association, director of the Coosa River Soil Conservation District, past chairman of the Alabama Cotton Study Committee, a member of the National Advisory Committee on Cotton, a member of the board of governors of the Alabama Hall of Fame, as well as a member of the following veterans organizations: The American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Disabled American Veterans.

Mr. NICHOLS first was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1959 and then to the Alabama Senate in 1963. During his eight years in the Alabama legislature, Mr. NICHOLS sponsored legislation to improve Alabama's system of education, to help the handicapped of the state, and to create better roads between the state's farm communities and the markets they serve. In recognition of his exceptional service, the capitol press corps voted Mr. NICHOLS the "Most Outstanding Member of the Alabama Senate" in 1965.

Mr. NICHOLS was also a member of the Auburn University Board of Trustees. He served for two 12-year terms. In 1987, his fellow members elected him as the President Pro Tempore of the Board. Mr. NICHOLS was also a member of the prestigious Alabama Academy of Honor, a group of about 100 living Alabamians distinguished for their service to the State and the recognition they have brought to it.

In 1966, Mr. NICHOLS was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. He served from January 3, 1967 until his death on December 13, 1988. During his first term in the House of Representatives, Congressman NICHOLS served on the House Agriculture Committee. Following his re-election in 1968, he successfully petitioned the House leadership for a place on the House Armed Services Committee.

On the Armed Services Committee, Congressman NICHOLS served as the chairman of the Panel on Non-appropriated Funds; chairman of the Panel on Commissaries and Exchanges; chairman of the Subcommittees on Military Personnel and Compensation and Investigations; and as a member of the Subcommittees on Research and Development, and Readiness. As chairman of the Military Personnel and Compensation Subcommittee in the 97th Congress, Congressman NICHOLS was recognized as the "Friend of the Serviceman"

for his legislative initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for military people. As chairman he made special efforts to ensure that the enlisted volunteers in America's armed forces received compensation and benefits at least equal to that of the civilians they protect.

In the 100th Congress, Mr. NICHOLS served as chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Investigations. He also served on the Subcommittees on Military Personnel and Compensation, and Readiness.

During his service in Congress, WILLIAM NICHOLS sponsored several pieces of legislation in the area of taxes, environment, veterans' benefits and military authorization. During the 99th Congress Mr. NICHOLS was responsible for the most far-reaching piece of defense-related legislation to pass Congress in more than forty years. Subsequently named the "Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986," the law restructured the military establishment to provide a better line of command in the Department of Defense, as well as a better accountability of defense programs to the Executive and the Congress.

Memorial Services

for

WILLIAM F. NICHOLS

Proceedings in the House

TUESDAY, *January 3, 1989.*

Mr. DICKINSON. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 16) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

HOUSE RESOLUTION 16

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable BILL NICHOLS, a Representative from the State of Alabama.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That when the House adjourns today, it adjourn as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

Mr. DICKINSON. Mr. Speaker, let me say that I am not prepared to speak in eulogy of our departed colleague and my very dear friend at this time. I simply take this opportunity to inform the Members of the House that this particular Member, who died during the recess and who is such a dear friend to all of us, so well liked, so well respected; I know that there are a great number of people who would like to participate in a special order in memorial to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. NICHOLS), and so I would like to take this opportunity to say that as soon as we get back in session after January 20 that it is my intent as dean of the delegation to ask for such special order and that all of the Members of the House will be notified of that special order in ample time for them to prepare for it. I know that this will evoke a very large response.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Mr. PARKER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 44 minutes pm), pursuant to House Resolution 16, and under its

previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, January 4, 1989, at 12 noon, in memory of the late Honorable BILL NICHOLS.

THURSDAY, *January 19, 1989.*

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, William L. Ball III, the Secretary of the Navy, wrote a very fine article for the Washington Post about our former colleague, Congressman BILL NICHOLS of Alabama.

I agree with Will Ball that we will miss the leadership BILL NICHOLS brought to the area of national defense. His constituents will miss a very effective spokesman in Washington and I will miss him because he was one of my best friends in Congress.

I want to share Will Ball's article with my colleagues.

REMEMBER BILL NICHOLS

(By William L. Ball III)

There will be sensed a missing presence as members of the House of Representatives are sworn in at the Capitol today. Sadly, the Third District of Alabama will not be represented, its citizens having gathered to bury their Congressman ten days before Christmas.

To colleagues, constituents, and those both in and out of government who knew him, BILL NICHOLS was a man of uncommon strength and uncommon virtue. His way was that of one who had been tested by hardship time and again, who had bested obstacles few would ever confront, and yet who instinctively never forgot the simple rule at the core of his steady values. To exercise good sense, which was his practice, he knew that a Congressman had to remember who he was . . . and where he came from.

To fellow southerners, he was a model public man, admired for his considerate treatment of people from all stations in life, his agreeable manner and his genuine interest in the circumstances of others . . . his selflessness, unquestioned integrity, and the strength of his convictions. For a time in Alabama he was a cotton man, which meant above all he was fair. Always fair.

So obvious were these qualities in BILL NICHOLS and so sudden his departure from us that no amount of mourning can compensate for the tributes he deserved here but never received. So many were those whom he inspired in the old-fashioned way—not by image but by living example—that he leaves empty on this day far more than one seat in the House.

There is a diminished roster now in the Congress of those who had a part in two of the traumas of this the American century. BILL NICHOLS saw what the Great Depression wrought on the rural South—his eleventh birthday was two weeks before the stock market crash. Twelve years later he left Auburn University for combat service in the German forests on the front lines of World War II. Those experiences gave to BILL NICHOLS and thousands of others who survived war and depression an extraordinary and even

historic determination to succeed, to serve, and to create opportunities for America's next generation.

And that's exactly what they did. With an impact and reach none could foresee in 1945, they rebuilt, retooled, and regenerated over the span of four decades a country that without them surely would not have hit full stride.

So, of the achievements of BILL NICHOLS and the legacy of his generation, my generation ought to pause and take note. The gentleman from Alabama worked hard to preclude the repetition of mistakes for which his generation paid an awful price. The lessons of his remarkable life are many and the good of the republic requires that they be heeded. And were he here today and asked by the freshman House Members in the class of '88 what one thing they above all should do . . . well, he would smile, and with that good-natured twinkle in his eye suggest quietly that a Congressman ought to always remember who he is . . . and where he comes from.

TUESDAY, *January 31, 1989.*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, what does one say about the death of a close friend? In the case of my good friend BILL NICHOLS, the first place to begin is to talk about BILL NICHOLS the man. He was a quiet fellow, the kind of retiring southern gentleman who thought long and hard before he spoke. He was also a man of his word, a loyal friend and colleague who played the game of politics in an honorable fashion. Another important characteristic of the man was his independence. He listened to many, but in the end when BILL NICHOLS decided to act he did so after consulting his own conscience. Maybe most important of all, BILL NICHOLS was a quietly religious man. He took part every Thursday in our congressional prayer breakfasts and derived strength and comfort from those weekly get-togethers.

These personal qualities can be seen in the accomplishments of BILL NICHOLS the legislator. Substance, not style, is what mattered to BILL NICHOLS. One need only look no further than the time and effort he devoted to his work on the Armed Services Committee. When BILL NICHOLS spoke, people listened—on the Hill, at the Pentagon, and elsewhere in Government.

Elected chairman of the Investigations Subcommittee in 1982 BILL NICHOLS had the sad task of investigating the Beirut bombing of the Marine barracks that led to the death of 241 American servicemen. From that came his interest in defense organization, to make the system work better if he could. Years of patient work on defense matters culminated in 1986 with the passage of the most sweeping reorganization of the Department of Defense since its creation in 1947.

Those of us on the Armed Services Committee, in recognition of BILL NICHOLS constant devotion to the welfare of the armed services, named the measure the Bill Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. Now known as the Goldwater-Nichols Act, it was a substantial accomplishment and symbolized our recognition of a man who had given so much in the line of duty to his country.

Yes, like many of his generation BILL NICHOLS served his country in World War II. He used to say that he had put "a little bit of time in the service—combat time." He crossed the beaches at Normandy and lost his leg in the subsequent fighting, earning both the Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Maybe this is why BILL NICHOLS identified so readily with the men and women who serve our country in uniform. It says something about BILL NICHOLS that he died in his office, early in the morning, at a time when many would have expected him to be enjoying a well-deserved break from his duties. He will be missed by those of us who had the good fortune to work with him. He was a wise man, an able counselor, and a good friend, His presence here on Capitol Hill will be missed. The country has lost a devoted public servant.

THURSDAY, *March 2, 1989.*

Mr. DICKINSON. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my good friend and colleague from Alabama, Tom Bevill, and the Alabama delegation and many of our colleagues in paying special tribute to a very great American and a very dear friend of mine, BILL NICHOLS.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, our Nation lost a great leader this past December with the passing of our former colleague, BILL NICHOLS, of Sylacauga.

Few Members of Congress in our Nation's history have served in this body with more distinction, honor, and integrity than BILL NICHOLS.

His style was soft-spoken and kind and he had a deep understanding for earning respect by first showing it to others.

During his 22-year tenure in the House we witnessed his incredible ability to bring the two sides of an issue together and it was his slow, deliberate, and tempered style that will be so greatly missed in this body.

The best tribute that I can pay to our friend, BILL NICHOLS, is that over the course of his long and distinguished career in public service he never forgot who he was, where he came from, or who the people were that sent him here. He had genuine care and concern for the average working man and woman that is too often absent in public service today. He always remembered that our purpose in this job is to serve the public and he tirelessly dedicated his life and career to that end.

To his lovely wife, Carolyn, who was so good to Karen and me when we first came to Washington, we extend our continued prayers and support. We know her days are still very empty without BILL and we wish for her God's strength and guidance during this difficult period.

Mr. DICKINSON. It is a sad occasion to get together to commemorate the life and the outstanding accomplishments of our colleague BILL NICHOLS, but it is certainly something that should be done because with his passing, he has left a great void in the elected officials of the Nation and certainly his district, the Third District of Alabama.

In life, BILL was both a dear close friend and a dedicated statesman who always stood tall in his patriotism and love of country. There was also another side to this man, that of a kind and quiet gentleman, who found it natural to put the needs of others above his own. If he gave his word, you could take it to the bank. He was solid, and dependable, and absolutely trustworthy.

BILL was a man of many accomplishments who remained remarkably unassuming. As an Auburn University football star, he turned down an offer to go professional. As a brave young volunteer in the U.S. Army, BILL NICHOLS fought gallantly against the Germans in World War II and lost his left leg to a land mine in the Battle of the Hurtgen Forrest. He subsequently. underwent 19 operations and learned to walk again. During his 8 years as a representative and senator in the Alabama Legislature, BILL NICHOLS distinguished himself through his efforts in support of the handicapped, education, and improving State highways. For these reasons, the capitol press corps honored him as the most outstanding member of the Alabama Senate in 1965.

In Washington, BILL NICHOLS never put aside the compassion and good common values that he was so well known for back home. As chairman of the Military Personnel and Compensation Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Com-

mittee, BILL was dubbed the "friend of the serviceman" for ensuring that America's service members received compensation and benefits comparable to civilian pay. In 1984, BILL NICHOLS chaired the House Investigations Subcommittee probe of Pentagon procurement waste, in which the Defense Department reportedly paid outrageous prices for hammers and for toilet seats.

This was only a small portion of it, though, because the waste and fraud was not in hundreds of dollars but in millions of dollars.

Many regard the hallmark of his career to be the passage of the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act. Labeled as the most far-reaching piece of defense legislation to pass Congress in over 40 years, it called for the reorganization of the upper ranks of the military services. After the failed rescue attempt of the American hostages in Iran, and the bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon, BILL NICHOLS fought hard for the Pentagon reorganization, laying the blame for these tragic events on the lack of authority given to officers placed in responsible positions. That has been changed, thanks to BILL.

Mr. Speaker, BILL was the recipient of a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Before coming to Congress he was a county farm agent, a local school board member, a successful businessman and after coming to Congress here, he was certainly an outstanding and capable Member of Congress. BILL NICHOLS was all of these things. But for those of us who are privileged to know him, he will above all be remembered as a good friend and a good American.

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Bill Dickinson and Tom Bevill for taking this time so we can pay tribute to our friend and colleague, BILL NICHOLS. I lost one of my very closest friends when BILL died of a heart attack on December 13, and this country lost one of its greatest patriots.

In a very thoughtful gesture, Mrs. Nichols gave me and my colleague, John Kasich the honor of eulogizing BILL at his funeral in Sylacauga, AL. It was a sad day, but I had no trouble coming up with nice things to say about BILL NICHOLS. Ever since he and I met 22 years ago at freshman orientation here on Capitol Hill, I have loved and admired this person.

Throughout his life, BILL NICHOLS was always a leader. He played football at Auburn University and was captain of the team. He had a close relationship with his alma mater. I had the privilege of attending a ceremony a few years ago on the Auburn campus, where BILL was honored by having the ROTC Building named after him. Naturally, he was very proud of this.

BILL NICHOLS was a highly decorated veteran of World War II. He was severely wounded in the war, but he and his wife, Carolyn, worked hard to overcome that handicap and they did it with dignity. I try to talk to Carolyn about every month to see how she is doing. The loss of BILL, of course, is very hard on her, but she is carrying on life and doing the things BILL wanted her to do.

BILL was a leader in our House prayer breakfast group. At one time, he was president of the group and I know he looked forward to those Thursday morning sessions. He would often write down quotes or prayers offered by others on the program.

During my eulogy in Alabama, I failed to tell the story about BILL and former Congressman Jack Brinkley of Georgia and how they took on President Jimmy Carter and won. We were putting a national veterans cemetery in the Southeastern part of the United States. The administration had picked a spot very near the Atlanta International Airport and right below the glide path into one of the runways.

Jack Brinkley and BILL didn't like the site at all. They found a suitable location near the Alabama-Georgia State line and went to work on me and others who had jurisdiction over veterans cemeteries.

By sheer determination, BILL and Jack convinced the Carter administration to agree to the new site. As a result, veterans and their dependents are being buried at this more convenient location.

BILL and I served together on the Armed Services Committee. He was military oriented, through and through. His biggest concern was for the enlisted personnel. He cared more, and did more, for the privates, corporals, sergeants and Navy chiefs than anyone I can remember. When he was chairman of the Personnel Subcommittee, he led the way to increase individual pay; special pay, overseas pay and doctors pay were also implemented. We improved the PX's and commissaries, and he helped start our GI bill on its way to passage. He was truly the enlisted man's friend.

He was also very proud of the Goldwater-Nichols Act that updated the command structure of the military. That was one of the most important pieces of legislation passed in recent years. I am always proud when witnesses before the committee mention the Goldwater-Nichols Act.

When BILL was chairman of the Investigations Subcommittee, that panel wrote a critical report on the loss of our marines in the bombing in Beirut. Some people in the military didn't like the report, but BILL never backed off, and he was right.

BILL NICHOLS was dedicated to his work, just as he was to his family. They know, just as we know, that he was a very special person. We are fortunate to have had the chance to serve with such a great American. We miss him, but BILL is with the good Lord today. Our thoughts are with Carolyn, his three children, Memorie, Margaret, Flynt, and their families.

Mr. HUTTO. Mr. Speaker, I first heard the name of our departed friend BILL NICHOLS, back in the early 1960's when I worked with television station WSFA in Montgomery, AL. At that time, BILL NICHOLS was a member of the Alabama Legislature, and his name was frequently in the newspaper and on our television station as well as other media throughout the State of Alabama because even then BILL NICHOLS' ability as a leader was being recognized.

I did not have the honor of really meeting BILL NICHOLS until I was elected to Congress in 1978 although I had known his first administrative assistant, Jack Venable, who had worked with me at the television station. When I came to Washington, BILL NICHOLS was one of those who helped take me in tow and was very helpful in my getting the kind of orientation to this body which has been of much benefit through the years. BILL NICHOLS and I had a lot in common. We both came from a rural Alabama background and we were interested in many of the same things. BILL remembered fondly that I had narrated the Auburn University statewide football telecast with Coach Ralph "Shug" Jordan. Since BILL was a former Auburn football player and captain of the team back when Coach Jordan was playing in the early thirties this was a natural point of mutual interest for both of us, and we talked about that considerably. Of course, I don't think there is anyone in this body that did not know that BILL NICHOLS was "Auburn University" through and through. BILL was one of that institution's most distin-

guished alumni, and he savored every minute of anything that had to do with Auburn.

Perhaps the cry of "war eagle" was uttered by him just about more than any other two words in his vocabulary. His support of Auburn and his leadership throughout the years were recognized by his alma mater on a number of occasions, I remember going with a number of members to attend the dedication of the William F. Nichols ROTC Building in October 2, 1986, and, indeed, this was a proud moment for BILL, Carolyn, and their family. This is a beautiful building on Auburn's campus that accommodates all of the ROTC units there, and it is a fitting tribute to one who has given so much of himself for America and the cause of freedom. And in 1988, Nancy and I attended the homecoming football game at Auburn University where at halftime BILL received the Walter Gilbert Award.

BILL NICHOLS had a distinguished record in the U.S. Army during World War II and was severely wounded. He was a natural for the House Armed Services Committee, and his membership on the committee for over 20 years was a platform that highlighted his many qualities of leadership. BILL's cool demeanor, his pleasant personality and his knowledge of the issues endeared him to all of us members of the committee and indeed to his other colleagues here in the House. Nancy and I counted BILL and Carolyn Nichols among our best friends in Congress, and we enjoyed the company of the Nichols on many occasions, Early in my service in Congress we were privileged to travel with the Nichols on an overseas trip. This was indeed a good time of fellowship with this wonderful couple as we experienced the culture as well as the political situations in a number of countries.

Earlier I mentioned BILL's close ties with Auburn University and in the last 3 years my family and I have been closer to the Nichols than ever since our oldest daughter, Lori, began her freshman year in 1986 and then this past fall our youngest daughter, Amy, also entered Auburn. The Nichols were very helpful in getting our girls off to a good start and we delighted in attending several Auburn football games together.

Although, BILL had had some health problems in recent years, including heart bypass surgery, he appeared to feel better and apparently was doing extremely well the last couple of years before his fatal heart attack. It was a source of pride to me and I am sure with our other Members to see that some of BILL NICHOLS' best work was done during his

last few years in Congress, I had the pleasure of serving with BILL as a conferee on the defense authorization bill for a few years when we were both fighting to preserve the jobs of our civilian employees at military bases and to keep them from being contracted out. BILL commanded the respect of everyone and it was good for me to be in his presence when both of us were going head to head on this issue with some Members of the Senate. As you know, BILL was coauthor of the Goldwater-Nichols defense reorganization bill that provided for the reorganization of the Defense Department. It was not an easy task but Congressman NICHOLS, as chairman of the HASC Investigations Subcommittee, was right in the thick of it and never wavered in the face of stiff opposition from some of those in high offices in the Pentagon. This legislation will be a monument to BILL NICHOLS for years to come and has already been hailed as an outstanding piece of legislation even by those who had opposed it.

Since we have similar constituencies it was not unusual for me, as well as other Members, to sit next to BILL NICHOLS here in the Chamber and to discuss how we were going to vote on upcoming legislation. He always was well attuned to the desires of the folks back home, and that was the thing that mattered most to him. He often had words of wisdom on the right positions to take on the various bills.

BILL NICHOLS was a great American patriot.

BILL NICHOLS is gone from our midst, but he will not be forgotten. He was loved by his family, by his many friends here in Congress, and by many thousands of people in the Third District of Alabama and throughout the State. I believe we all are the better for having a little bit of BILL NICHOLS rub off on us during his sojourn here on Earth. Knowing of his Christian commitment, it is good to know that he has transitioned from this life into Heaven. My entire family, all of whom were fond of BILL NICHOLS, would like to take this opportunity to again extend our deepest sympathy and best wishes to Carolyn and all of the Nichols family. May God richly bless each one of you.

Mr. FLIPPO. Mr. Speaker, with the passing of Congressman BILL NICHOLS, his wife Carolyn, his family, his friends, and his colleagues have suffered a unique loss. We have lost a great American, a great Alabaman, and a great human being.

BILL NICHOLS was a patriot in the purest sense of the terms, and he led a very useful life. BILL's courage was the

courage that was tested by war, and his strength was the strength of character that comes from deep inside that allowed BILL to overcome the serious injuries that he sustained during that war and to go on to become one of Alabama's greatest statesmen.

BILL NICHOLS, as we all know, was a native of Sylacauga, AL, and we know that he served as an outstanding captain of the Auburn University football team, and later in life he enjoyed the distinction of coming back for further service as one of the members of the board of trustees of Auburn University. He was then in fact the chairman of the board and played a very important role in the development of Auburn University as a world-class institution of higher learning.

We know that during World War II BILL distinguished himself in battle. He was awarded, as we know, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his bravery in action. Then after the war BILL came back and distinguished himself in agribusiness, and in 1965 he was named Man of the Year by Progressive Farmer magazine.

BILL served in both the Alabama House and the Alabama Senate, where he was named Outstanding Senator by the capitol press corps.

So BILL NICHOLS' life really exemplified public service at its very best.

As for me personally, when I was first elected to Congress, BILL was always there to offer his help and his guidance. Through his example, we learned a great deal about what it takes to be a good representative of the people. We all know that BILL rose through the ranks here in Congress to become one of America's leading experts on defense matters. We have already heard it said that the passage of the Goldwater-Nichols bill reorganizing the combat decisionmaking process at the Pentagon is a lasting testament to his work here. He has other testaments to his work.

This Goldwater-Nichols bill was important, but it was no more important than the legislation that he helped to get passed as a State senator to help the schoolchildren of Alabama to become competitive in the world.

Our Nation has really lost a great man, but we are comforted by the lasting contribution that he made during his service to America and his service to his fellow man. BILL NICHOLS made a difference, and we will truly miss him.

Mr. PICKLE. Mr. Speaker, I would simply like to take this time to pay my respects to BILL NICHOLS as an individual

and a strong American. BILL came to us as a very popular man from Alabama, not alone because he was an outstanding athlete or an outstanding war hero, but because he was more like people than anybody else. I think in this body of 435 people, BILL NICHOLS was more like us than anybody else,

He was simply a man of the people. We praise him for his contributions in the military field, and it is appropriate that we do, and we praise him also for his contributions in the agricultural field, because he was an expert on that subject.

I think there is something perhaps we might mention today that might be overlooked by some, and that is that BILL NICHOLS was a very religious person. Quite often the case is that those men who go forward in battle and become a national hero in the field of combat also have become some of the most religious leaders we have ever had. BILL NICHOLS never missed a Thursday morning prayer breakfast. I do not believe in all the years that he came did he ever miss one, except perhaps when he was ill. He came not because he had any office to hold, he just came because he thought there was solace and help to be found in the discussion by his fellow colleagues about things that affect our Maker and our own services. He was a regular attender and he was a contributor.

Those of us who know him as the expert in the military field or the expert in agriculture also know that he was a man of high principle, high character. If we wanted to know something about a particular bill in his field, I as one would go to BILL NICHOLS and say, "What is our position? What is a good position on this particular bill that is pending before the Congress?"

If it was in his field, he would tell me, and I would believe him.

Now, you may say perhaps we ought to read all these bills, but we do not always have a chance to read them all. We rely on some people to give us their advice and suggestions, a very common practice that is done in this Congress. In his field when you talked to BILL NICHOLS, he would tell you exactly what his position was and why without trying to influence you or trying to coerce you or moving you in one direction, just gave you the facts, and based on that you could make your decision perhaps and know that you had the facts.

Well, I appreciate a man like that, I think the Members of this Congress do. I do not believe anybody ever served here

who was not more genuinely respected as a man of the people, a good fierce American who believed in this country and believed in doing right and who exhibited all those traits as long as he was here in this House.

I will tell you, we have lost a good man, a great American, and we will remember him a long time.

Mr. MARTIN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Alabama for yielding to me. I appreciate the gentleman taking this special order so we can pay tribute to a dear friend and indeed a hero of mine.

I would also like to be associated with the previous remarks made by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Pickle).

BILL NICHOLS was someone very, very special. When he was chairman of the Investigations Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee, on which I was lucky enough to serve in my first term in that committee, he was a kind and decent religious man. No one in this body that we served with is more respected on both side of the aisle than BILL NICHOLS.

He was also very, very important to each and every serviceman and woman who serves this Nation in the large part by played on the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Panel, where I served with him, as well as on the Investigations Committee.

Traveling with BILL was quite an experience. It seemed to me that anytime I was traveling with BILL NICHOLS, I found myself in some garden spot like downtown Beirut or Panama.

Of course, BILL had lost a leg in World War II. Of all the places that we trekked through the dust and mud and up and down the stairs, at no time did BILL NICHOLS every ask for any special attention. You know, after a long, long day and a lot of walking, he would get an opportunity to take that artificial limb off and relax for a few minutes and then it was time to strap it back on and go with the best of young people 15 or 20 years younger than he was.

I learned a lot in long conversations with BILL NICHOLS of what this body is all about, what America's defense should do and where it should not be involved.

Talking about that artificial limb, there is a great story that we enjoy, the people who know BILL and know his sense of humor well. One time he was down at Fort Hood when they were trying to get Congress to learn more about the M-1 tank. After they had been given a description, shown how

to drive it and the tank was being fired, it came time for BILL to climb up in the turret. There was a young soldier there to explain what the schedule was going to be, to assist the Member and to teach him a little bit about the tank. With that tremendous strength BILL had in his upper body, he started climbing up on the side of the turret when his foot struck the track. To the chagrin and amazement of the young trooper, the leg came tumbling down and the poor young fellow did not know what to do about it. He looked up and he said, "Congressman, what should I do?"

BILL looked down at him and he said, "I have already lost one leg in defense of my country. I don't want to lose another. Would you hand me that leg and we will get on with the program." Whereupon he strapped it on and the tank took off.

We have the opportunity to serve with some wonderful people here. BILL was one man I will never, never forget.

I also appreciate the responsibility that he gave to me as a Republican member, both on the Investigations Committee and as a member of the MRW panel. He taught us all a great deal.

To Carolyn and the family, what a lovely lady she is and a tower of strength, I wish them well. I want them to know that they are a part of this family, notwithstanding BILL's passing. We are indebted to her and the family as well.

Mr. DICKINSON. Mr. Speaker, in concluding, let me wind up by saying that two of the closest friends that BILL had in the House were Tom Bevill and myself, because we have known him as long or longer than any and have served so closely with him. For that reason Tom and I have taken this opportunity to share special orders. He will follow me with his own remarks and such remarks as other Members might wish to make.

In winding up, let me share with all of you a couple vignettes about BILL. Two or three remarks have been made about his artificial leg. BILL never let it slow him down. He was a horse. He was a charger. A lot of times it was not comfortable, a lot of times he felt bad, but he never said a word. He just kept on going.

BILL was a great hunter. That was his passion. He loved to hunt. I have been on many hunts with him, sat in a cold, cold duck blind or goose blind with him, sat on a cold stool in a dove field. I learned early on not to stand too close to

him, because he would not let many come through. He was a crack shot. He was good. I have to hand that to him.

We were sitting in a goose blind one time on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. It was a terrible snow, ice, and about 2 inches of water in the bottom of the goose blind. I mean, it was cold. One person in the blind looked over and noticed BILL just had on a pair of rough shoes, instead of boots. We all were wearing insulated boots. So his friend looked at BILL and said, "BILL, my gosh, aren't your feet freezing?"

And he said, "Only one of them."

Well, I have been on many a hunt with BILL. I can only say that I have never known a man as popular as BILL, that so far as I know has not one enemy in the world.

The night before BILL died we were at a Christmas party at the White House. As has been commented on, he had open heart surgery about 3 or 4 years ago. He lost a lot of weight. He was taking care of himself. He was watching his diet. He was exercising daily and he was really in good shape.

We were sitting there at the White House at the Christmas party. I walked by and saw him and Carolyn sitting there. My wife and I went over and sat with them. In a little while I turned to my wife and I said, "You know, I have come, I have seen and been seen, and I'm ready to go."

Carolyn said, "BILL is, too. BILL has been up since before 4 o'clock. He went on a goose shoot this morning. He just got back and now he is here. He doesn't stay up until 9:30 very often at night."

That was the last time I saw BILL. He went home. His wife took him to work the next morning very early about 6:30, which he often did. He was found slumped over his desk from a heart attack. The White House party was the last time I had seen him.

I have known BILL and worked with him for 25 years. We had adjacent districts in Alabama. We had adjacent offices up here. We shared constituents. I cannot tell you how many times I have had people from his district, a river separated us from one another as far as districts are concerned, Prattville was in his district, Montgomery is my hometown. So many times people from Prattville I would run into would say, "Congressman, I just want you to know, I voted for you every time."

I would say, "That's fine. Where do you live?"

They would say, "Prattville."

"That's BILL's district."

The same thing would happen to him. We got confused by names quite often, but I was always very proud when that was the case.

My wife and Carolyn are very close friends. They really are very fond of each other. It is with particular sadness that we mark the passing of our good friend, BILL NICHOLS, and wish our very best and God's mercies on Carolyn and the family in the travail and in the heartache that they have endured as a result of BILL's passing.

So Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield back the balance of my time in order that my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Bevill) can continue with this tribute to our good friend, BILL NICHOLS.

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Sisisky).

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Alabama, for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I feel fortunate to have served with BILL NICHOLS, both as a Member of the House of Representatives and on the House Armed Services Committee.

All of us can point to ladies and gentlemen with whom we have served who stand out as leaders and mentors for newer Members.

They are people who have been here for a long time, people who know the ropes, people who take a genuine interest in their colleagues.

BILL NICHOLS was such a man. He helped me understand the committee, helped me understand Congress, and gave me a better idea of what kind of Congressman I wanted to be.

He epitomizes high standards of service to this country. With an enviable war record in the European theater, he had a unique understanding of the military. He also had the business sense that came from running a company, and tried to apply his experience, common sense, and good judgment to congressional decisions.

BILL's commitment to the domestic and national security of this country set a high standard for every Member of this body. His devotion to his family is equally praiseworthy. All of us who knew him were better off because of it. His wisdom and friendship will be greatly missed. We would all do well to remember BILL NICHOLS is looking over our shoulders.

Mr. Speaker, this Nation has lost one of its finest citizens, and I have lost one of my greatest friends.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, today we honor the memory of our colleague, BILL NICHOLS. Many of my colleagues in this House have served longer through the years with Mr. NICHOLS than I have, but I can say as the newest Member of the Alabama delegation that in my short tenure, BILL NICHOLS was a good friend, and a great help to me, both personally and professionally.

When I took the oath of office in January 1987, it was BILL NICHOLS who furnished the Bible, which he then inscribed and gave to me. No memento of my congressional career will ever mean more, no gesture of friendship will be more fondly remembered.

As one new to Congress and to the Alabama delegation, I had, and still have for that matter, much to learn. BILL NICHOLS was a counselor who was always available, always willing to share from his own experience and wisdom.

Perhaps the greatest lesson I learned from BILL NICHOLS came simply from watching him. At a time when many question the motivations and lack of comity in Government today, and point to rhetoric which replaces rationality, or political posturing which takes the place of sound public policy, the career of my colleague, BILL NICHOLS, shines forth as the example of a legislator who was effective in a quiet and gentlemanly way. BILL NICHOLS had the unique ability to be both loyal to his friends and to maintain total independence of judgment and action. Some may believe that loyalty always means blind loyalty, and others believe that independence in politics requires a critical stand toward all issues and individuals. BILL NICHOLS showed the true qualities of a statesman in his ability to balance and reconcile these potentially conflicting qualities. His work on the Armed Services Committee exemplifies this trait, especially the reorganization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the delegation of greater power to area military commanders, BILL NICHOLS was concerned with how instructions worked, even when his friends opposed changes he had come to regard as necessary. As chairman of the Investigations Subcommittee, he again demonstrated his loyalty to those who serve in our Armed Forces, and demonstrated that loyalty by insisting on rendering an independent judgment on the effectiveness of our policies and the actions of those placed in positions of authority.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like also to speak about the qualities of BILL NICHOLS the private citizen. As a man, he also demonstrated loyalty, loyalty to his family, to his church, and to

his alma mater. All of us in the House know that a special effort must be made to balance the demands of our public positions with the needs of our families. I think BILL NICHOLS was exemplary in this regard. His wife, Carolyn, and his children, were always at the center of his concerns.

Throughout his years in Washington, BILL NICHOLS remained a member of the First Methodist Church in his home town of Sylacauga. In fact, he continued to serve as a teacher in the men's Sunday school class, and faithfully attended services there, I know that his religious conviction was deep, and that it was a source of strength and inspiration to him.

Mr. Speaker, as I thought about the remarks to make today about Mr. NICHOLS, I took out the Bible which he had furnished for my swearing-in ceremony and read the inscription in it and just opened it up and it turned to a verse of scripture that I would like to share with the Members and the American people, and it is from Matthew 25, verse 40. Mr. NICHOLS had this marked, and maybe it was marked for me. The verse reads: "And the king shall answer and say unto them: Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

A graduate of Auburn University, BILL NICHOLS was a star athlete, playing on the varsity football team. He continued his interest in his alma mater throughout his life, ultimately serving on its board of trustees,

Mr. Speaker, BILL NICHOLS was a friend, he was an adviser, he was an example of the qualities to which we all aspire, and I know my colleagues join me when I say he will be missed, and also that this world is a better place for BILL NICHOLS having walked among us.

Mr. CONTE. Mr. Speaker, BILL NICHOLS has left us a legacy of competence, diligence and grace that makes every Member of this body feel good even in the face of the bitter loss his passing has brought to this institution. A man of immense courage and imposing presence, he was kind and patient almost to a fault. He was the living definition of the word "genteel."

In an era of heroes he was the genuine article. He wore his wounds from World War II as badges of courage and fortitude. That same indomitable spirit which made him a great athletic figure at Auburn also made him a leader in the halls of leaders.

His 30 years of public service both in the Alabama legislature and up here in Congress were characterized by unmatched devotion to duty. I always marveled at how fresh and ready he was when we got together very early in the morning for some recreation in the fields.

It was certainly understandable when one realizes that he was in his congressional office for work at the break of dawn every day. He was not a workaholic but no one had more devotion to his public service than BILL. He was always available for his constituents as well as his colleagues.

Whether he supported your position or not, his demeanor was the same. He was as tough as the chew of tobacco he treasured, but he was so smooth that when he won his point, his adversary in the discussion would always come away thinking he hadn't lost anything.

You know the measure of a man in the duck blind or along a stream. BILL had no equal in the love of the outdoors. It came naturally from his roots on the farm and it came instinctively from his ease in the wild. I've walked many a path with BILL. He was an expert shot. He operated outdoors as he did indoors—he seldom got excited and he seldom missed. Yet as much as he cherished birds on the wing, he always deferred to whomever was with him to take the first shot.

He loved his home district. Whether he was fishing in the Coosa or inspecting the tank rehab lines at Anniston, it was a joy to him. The Third District of Alabama is blessed with beauty and the finest of our educational institutions, such as Tuskegee and Auburn.

The district represents the grace, beauty, patriotism, and devotion to which we all aspire in this great land. It is no wonder that the citizens of east-central Alabama sent this gracious, beautiful, patriotic man, who devoted his every waking thought to them, back to Congress again and again. He was a beacon of honesty, integrity, and friendship to all of us and we will miss him dearly.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my deepest sympathy to his lovely and beautiful wife, Carolyn, and his lovely three children.

Mr. ROWLAND of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I came to know BILL, I suppose, during our relationship at the Thursday morning prayer breakfast, since we sat next to each other, and I learned a lot about him then, the kind of person that he was. In fact, I thought I kind of had an in with the Com-

mittee on Armed Services, since he was chairman of the Oversight Investigation Committee, and all of the ruckus was going on about overcharging and things of this nature. BILL was really looking after that, and I would get a lot of information from him about that.

BILL has always impressed me as a fellow who would not quit trying no matter what the odds seemed to be. As we all know, he was at the Normandy invasion, and he lost a leg there, but that did not slow him down at all.

I recall, and maybe it was 3 or 4 years ago, when we were out of session and then came back, that during that period BILL had a serious illness. I recall his hair turned white, and I heard that he almost died, but he came back, and with the determination that he had, he regained his stamina. I know I would see him in the morning. We would exercise together in an area where I really saw him putting forth a great effort to do all that he could, and he would often come up to me while he was exercising and he would say, "Doc, check my pulse and see if everything is going all right."

Mr. Speaker, we developed a real close relationship during that period of time, the time that we spent sitting next to each other at Thursday morning prayer breakfasts. He was a true patriot in my opinion, a great American, and as so many other people here have said, he is going to be sorely missed by all of us.

Just this morning at prayer breakfast, I was sitting there and someone else had taken that seat, and some of us sitting around talked about BILL and how we missed him, and we will miss him sorely.

Mr. LEATH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the Members in showing my sympathy and my affection for our dear friend BILL NICHOLS. I know that a lot of people in our institutions know the devotion that BILL NICHOLS had to the Department of Defense, to the defense of this country, and things of that nature.

What they do not or did not know, a lot of them, is the devotion that BILL NICHOLS had to the men and women who served in the Armed Forces. I had the privilege not only to serve with BILL on the Committee on Armed Services for 8 years, but I had the privilege of serving with him on what we call the morale, welfare, and recreation panel, which not even many Members of Congress know exists. That panel has to do with the oversight jurisdiction of the PX's, the commissaries, the recreation facilities, and the quality-of-life

facilities for soldiers and airmen and sailors all over the world and their families.

BILL NICHOLS spent hours every day working to make sure that that was what it should be, that the quality of life the troops and their families have, regardless of whether they were serving in Texas, Alabama, or Korea, Japan, or the Philippines or whatever, was better than it should be. BILL devoted really a lifetime to it. We would go to a military installation somewhere on a trip, and when everybody else, of course, would obviously want to go look at the troops and tanks and so forth, BILL NICHOLS would gently drift off and go look at the PX, look at the commissaries to see if the food was as it should be.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, when my dear friend, Bob Polk, died, whom the gentleman knew so well, in my lifetime, I have been privileged to know a number of outstanding people, but in that lifetime of knowing a number of outstanding people, I have known only a few remarkable people. I classify Bob Polk in that category, Mr. Speaker, and I classify BILL NICHOLS in that category.

I just want to say to Carolyn and the family that not only does my feeling for BILL NICHOLS go much deeper than affection, it does to love. That is the only term that I know to describe him, and I think that is not only true from me, I know it is true from the gentleman and the Alabama delegation. I know it is true from this House.

Mr. Speaker, no matter how long we serve here, I do not think there are many of us who can leave and have that said about us. We are going to miss BILL NICHOLS more than we know.

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, today's tribute in honor of our good friend, BILL NICHOLS, is, for me, one of the saddest experiences I have had as a Member of the House.

I have never known a better man on this Earth than BILL NICHOLS. He and I worked together, side by side, for 30 years. We were elected together to the Alabama Legislature in 1958, and since that time, I looked upon BILL as a brother. He represented the best that is in our country. His loss has left a great emptiness in this chamber and within me, personally.

I am confident that there never has been a more patriotic person to serve in Congress. BILL proved his love of this country on the battlefields of World War II. He nearly died there, fighting for freedom. The wounds he suffered were

deep and lasting, but they reinforced in him an abiding love of our land and a deep and lasting reverence for liberty.

BILL dearly loved his family, his church, and the people of Alabama's Third Congressional District. He represented them with the greatest energy, commitment and integrity. I remember many times that BILL would leave this Chamber after a late night session, having worked all day, and then drive all night to his district so that he could fulfill a breakfast meeting commitment with his constituents.

I would find wise counsel in talking with BILL about important pieces of legislation on which the House was about to vote. Without fail, he would give good, solid advice. His first and overriding concern with any legislation was: Was it good for America.

And BILL's most significant piece of legislation was a perfect example of how he viewed his responsibility as a Representative and one of the senior Members of the House Armed Services Committee. The Goldwater-Nichols Act has been hailed as among the most significant laws passed by Congress, dealing with the defense of America. BILL worked for 5 years developing this legislation which strengthened the chain of command of our Armed Forces. It made our military and its leadership more efficient and effective.

Today, this country is more secure because of BILL NICHOLS.

BILL's success in Congress, and the love and admiration which his constituents felt for him, never changed his humble character, I am confident he could have been reelected to represent his District as long as he wanted to continue to serve.

I remember when I was inspecting a water project in Maryland, at the request of the local Member of Congress, and I met one of the citizens of Maryland involved in the project. When he learned I was from Alabama, he asked if I'd ever heard of a friend of his from Alabama, by the name of BILL NICHOLS. He and BILL had gone duckhunting together in Maryland for a number of years. I told him that BILL and I had been elected to Congress together and were close friends. He was shocked to learn that BILL, his duckhunting buddy, was a senior Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. In all those years, BILL had never mentioned that he was a Congressman. That's typical of how modest a man he was.

My wife, Lou, my entire family, and I extend our deepest, heartfelt sympathy to BILL's lovely wife, Carolyn, and to his

three children. BILL's family gave him love, strength, and happiness. I know how proud he was of them, and how proud they are of his many accomplishments, and in the life that he lived.

BILL NICHOLS remained a kind, down-to-Earth, humble man all of his life. I deeply miss my friend from Alabama.

Mrs. BYRON. Mr. Speaker, let me say first of all that for many of us in this body, today has been very difficult.

When one stands and talks about a good friend a colleague, someone they have looked up to over the years, it is always difficult.

At the same time, many of us as freshman, and each of us has had that first day when we have stood in this Chamber and put up our hand and sworn allegiance to our country, our district, and our fellow Members of Congress, there is always some Member that sort of takes you under the wing and makes sure that you are given the right guidance. Ten years ago I had the opportunity to have BILL NICHOLS take me under his wing. I do not think there could have a better person to do that. I was new. I was inexperienced. I was naive. He trained me well, I think. I looked at the views and the values that he had toward his country, toward his family, and toward his colleagues in this body, and there is no one who had higher esteem for this institution.

His war record was one that he was so proud of. Many of us journeyed to Europe, to Normandy to visit for the 40th anniversary. BILL was very much a part of that delegation. But he had another mission on that trip. He very quietly slipped off and went up into France and into Belgium and into some of the areas that he had trod as a young man in 1940 through 1944.

We all look back on issues and things that make a man. As many of us know, BILL NICHOLS had a wooden leg. But he was not encumbered by that.

We went to investigate Lebanon during the altercation in the early 1980's. There was a deuce and half that we were to ride into the airport. I made a comment to one of the gentlemen standing there, one of our military Marine Corps escorts and I said, "You know, I think it would be better if Mr. NICHOLS could ride in the cab; it might be a little difficult for him to get up in the back of the truck."

The gentleman said, "Oh, I didn't realize," And I said, "Well, yes, he has a wooden leg."

By the time I had turned around, BILL NICHOLS was the first one on the back of that truck.

One of the things he liked to do, at least he told me so, was to see what our young men and young women do in their jobs out on the front lines. Last summer I had an opportunity with Admiral McKay, the head of our nuclear Navy, to accompany BILL on his first ride on a nuclear submarine. They had figured and rigged a cage to get BILL on because of his leg, and because the other one had a very heavy brace. We got down into the submarine and we were out at sea, and he looked at me with those wonderful, kind eyes, and that big smile, and he said, "Beverly," and I said, "Yes, BILL?" He said, "I really could have come down that tower, couldn't I?"

I thought for a moment, and there is no way that I could have told him that he would have had difficulty, because I know that had BILL NICHOLS made his mind up to go down that tower he would have gone down inside of that tower.

I watched him relate to the young people that we had on board that submarine. He would talk about their mission, talk about how far away they were from home, many of them from areas that were inland, a lot of them never having been to sea before, but they had chosen the Navy and had chosen the nuclear Navy, and had chosen a mission and a role that was very difficult, But he identified with them, he talked to them. He told them his philosophy. I know that each and every one of those young men, as is true of all of the military families that his life had touched, were saddened, and this country is a sadder nation for the loss of BILL.

In the last year I do not think anything gave him more pleasure than to talk about his new Greek grandson. What pride he had to talk about that young child that was coming along, and the joy and the happiness of his family and what that meant to him.

So I want to join with the gentleman in the well and to thank him as well as the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Dickinson) for taking this special order today to really address what I think is a great loss to this Nation of a very fine American.

Mr. DICKINSON. Mr. Speaker, I was sitting here reminiscing and ruminating over the many things that come to mind when I think of BILL NICHOLS. As the gentleman commented, he served with him 30 years, and I have served with

and been very closely associated with him for at least 25 or more. There are so many little vignettes and so many stories that come to mind.

But I think the story of BILL would not be complete if I did not put it in the Record, because it is a true story, an event that took place about 6 years ago as the new Congress at that time was being organized. The Democrats get together and elect who will be the chairmen of the various committees, and BILL was fourth in the seniority, and it normally goes by seniority. To the surprise of many people, there was an upset in the election, a coup if you care to call it that, when Mel Price, who had been the chairman for many years, but was advancing in age, was not reelected. That left a seat open.

The number two man asked BILL to make his nominating speech then since he was next in line, and BILL agreed to do it. Then before it was over, many, many people came to BILL and urged him to run, telling BILL that he was the most popular, and he was, in line of seniority, and knowing what I know after 24 years on the Armed Services Committee, I am convinced it is true, and I think most of my Democratic colleagues would agree that it is true that if BILL had been elected to be chairman of the Armed Services Committee, if he had allowed his name to be put in nomination, and the gentlewoman from Maryland was there, I believe, he would have won, he would have been chairman. I think he knew that.

He said, "No, I have agreed to nominate and support someone else. I have given my word. That is what I am going to do, and I will not agree for my name to be placed in nomination."

As a consequence, BILL was not elected chairman. And again, getting back to what has been said repeatedly here, his word was his bond. If he told you he would do something, he would do it. If he gave his word, you could take it to the bank.

BILL, having given his word, stepped aside and did not compete for the position when I am absolutely convinced that he would have been made the chairman of the Armed Services Committee had he sought it. But true to his word, he supported another candidate, and so BILL wound up as the chairman of the subcommittee on which he served when he died.

That is just one more measure of the man that I think it behooves us all to think about when we talk about service,

integrity. He was always a very great believer in the system, and this I think is just one more reason to salute the memory of a great and a true American.

I thank the gentleman from Alabama.

Mr. WHITTEN, Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in expressing my sorrow at the passing of our friend and colleague, BILL NICHOLS of Alabama.

I have served with many Members, but none have stood better with his colleagues than BILL. All of this was so evident at the funeral services where so many who worked with him were there, including what seemed to be the whole town.

We lost a great friend and the Congress a valuable Member.

BILL NICHOLS' record of service to the people of his district, State, and Nation will benefit all for years to come.

To his family we extend our sincerest sorrow at his passing. Truly, he leaves a great record.

Mr. JENKINS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues who are paying special tribute today to the Honorable BILL NICHOLS, who served in this august body for 22 years before a massive heart attack ended his life in December.

It is a privilege to say that I served in the U.S. House of Representatives with BILL NICHOLS. He set a standard of representation of the people which we should follow. The people of the Third District of Alabama were served well on this floor and in these Halls. He looked after his local people from the Tuskegee Institute and Auburn University to the bedroom counties bordering Montgomery and Birmingham, and they showed their approval by continuing to reelect him for the 12th time shortly before he died.

He served those of us in this institution well by paying close attention to his committee duties. He was a solid rock in the foundation of the Armed Services Committee, not failing to question when the need arose, but a strong supporter of the military. He voiced his concerns about the defenses of the Marine barracks near Beirut before the truck loaded with explosives crashed the gates and killed 241 servicemen.

As a veteran and staunch defense ally, he took the helm of the Subcommittee on Investigations and reformed the procurement process.

As we look back today over his distinguished career of public service, we all can say that BILL NICHOLS could be a

formidable foe, a committed ally, but always a gentleman in Alabamian and southern sense of the word.

Mr. DE LA GARZA. Mr. Speaker, we have lost a colleague whose record of service to this Chamber is long and distinguished.

Representative BILL NICHOLS is gone and today this Congressman proudly remembers the great friendship we developed over the many years. Such friendship makes our loss hard to bear, but the memories are great and everlasting.

Both of us were artillery officers during our Army careers. We shared a love of country and patriotism. We had jointly attended the 100th anniversary of the Army post at Fort Sill, OK, and we both felt very strongly about service to the Nation.

In his capacity as a high ranking member of the Armed Services Committee and chairman of its Subcommittee on Investigations, BILL NICHOLS worked tirelessly in the Congress to make military policy work for America in the best possible way.

He put his talents and energy to work on behalf of the enlisted men and women who made the military work. The everyday men and women who provide the fuel for the great engine of our armed services. These people were the focus of BILL NICHOLS's great compassion and efforts.

Now and then a Member of Congress will come our way who shows us the true color of public service through hard work and diligence. Chairman NICHOLS brought that color to its brightest in his support of the U.S. armed services. He was always ready at an instant to help any colleague on any matter and his energy was without end.

To his family we extend our heartfelt sympathies and we want you to know that we valued above all our friendship with this great man. He will not be forgotten by us. We have 1,000 different remembrances and recollections over the years to keep us company. And those are the memories that outlast us all.

Mr. SCHULZE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and remember a good friend and great man, the late Congressman BILL NICHOLS, of Alabama's Third District.

For 22 years, this body had the privilege to know BILL's dedication to public service and love of country. It is only appropriate that today we honor those contributions and commitment he held so dear.

BILL was a hero and leader many times over, even before he came to the U.S. House of Representatives. He showed his courage first on the football team of Auburn University, where he captained the 1940 squad. Passing up a professional football career, he chose to utilize his education in agriculture and agronomy by advising Autauga county farmers and counseling 4-H clubs.

When his country needed him to serve in World War II, BILL was prepared, having trained for military service in Auburn University's ROTC program. BILL entered the Army in 1942 as a second lieutenant, quickly distinguishing himself in combat. As a result of his heroics at the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest, Germany, BILL earned the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

After retiring from the Army as a captain, he returned to Alabama, where it did not take BILL long to find himself giving to the community again. He distinguished himself in the Alabama Legislature with his efforts to improve Alabama's education system, to help the handicapped, and to create better roads in the State. Understandably, BILL received the capitol press corps "Most Outstanding Member of the Alabama Senate" award.

Elected to the U.S. Congress in 1966, BILL took his expertise in agriculture and the Armed Forces to Washington. Frankly, I am certain all of us here today would agree that we benefited from his understanding and leadership on the most important issue facing America-protecting the Union. BILL could always be counted on in the Armed Services Committee to define the proper defensive posture the United States must pursue. For one, I am grateful BILL NICHOLS was watching out for all of us. Certainly, the United States is better for it.

There is no question BILL will be missed in this body, friends and patriots always are.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, as we are all painfully aware, in the past few years there has been a barrage of criticism in the news media about the lifestyles of certain Members of Congress. In fact, in today's edition of the Washington Times there was an article which capsulized some of the well known newspaper stories about Members over the past 15 years or so. Of course, as the ranking minority member of the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct for a number of years, I had to deal with these problems on a first-hand basis.

There is no question that Congress is constantly under a microscope, and in a free and open society this is to be expected. However, as a famous radio and television commentator pointed out, there is always another side of the story. And, our late friend and colleague, BILL NICHOLS, represented the other side of the story. BILL NICHOLS' political career was symbolic of what people expect in their elected officials. He was the model, the very ideal of what Plato and Thomas More had in mind when they described what a public servant should strive to attain.

I served with BILL NICHOLS for the better part of 18 years, and I can say without reservation or equivocation that he was one of the most outstanding public servants it has ever been my privilege to know. His honesty and integrity set a standard that should be emulated by every young person who strives for public office. He set a role model, and when he was taken away from us in such an untimely way, our consolation was that his example will live on in the hearts and minds of everyone who works to perfect the democratic process.

There were so many fine traits of BILL NICHOLS to admire that I hardly know where to begin in enumerating them. First and foremost, he was a gentleman of the highest order and a true American patriot. He loved the institution of Congress, and he always placed the institution above his own personal interests. As a valued member and leader for years of the House Armed Services Committee, he fought a long, hard, and successful battle to reform Pentagon procedures and solidify the chain of command, He understood the military establishment, and he worked tirelessly to help our Armed Forces meet the global challenges of the latter half of the 20th century.

BILL NICHOLS was proud of his native State of Alabama. He was a civic, business, and political leader in Alabama for years before taking his House seat in 1967. He was known throughout Alabama, and indeed, the entire South for his advocacy of agriculture and the need to expand the Nation's food and fiber production. Also, while working on his degree in agriculture at Auburn University, he excelled on the football team and was named team captain. What a lot of folks may not know is that he was actually offered a professional football contract. Of course, as most of us know, his football playing days ended for good when his left leg was shattered during World War II during the Battle of the Hurtgen Forest.

BILL NICHOLS was a genuine American hero. The product of the strong values of rural America, he possessed the true grit, determination, and courage that our great Nation must always have in its leaders. You cannot replace the BILL NICHOLS' of this world: you can only hope that such men will come to the forefront during times of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss the friendship, wisdom, and counsel of BILL NICHOLS. To his dear wife, Carolyn, and their three children I extend my heartfelt sympathy and deepest appreciation for sharing with us their husband and father who was an inspiration to us all.

Mr. ASPIN. Mr. Speaker, there are a few rare individuals who because of their character, standards, behavior, and physical presence indelibly influence the actions of others. They are the type of individuals by whom you and I judge our own actions. BILL NICHOLS was one such individual.

If I were asked to name an example of an American hero, it would be BILL NICHOLS. As a young man he excelled as a student leader and athlete. He was the captain of the 1940 Auburn University football team. His physical courage and bravery were demonstrated on the European battlefields of World War II where, like so many others of his generation, he was called upon to sacrifice himself in the service of his country. Sacrifice he did. Severely wounded, he lost one leg and the use of the other was severely limited.

Because he never talked about his injuries and learned to walk and carry on a normal life, many people who knew him later were unaware of the extent of his disability. But in remembering him we should reflect on the lasting physical courage that his very presence represented. As chairman of the Investigations Subcommittee he traveled a number of times to Central America during the midst of the hostilities—to El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Honduras. He visited the Marines in Beirut during the 1983 crisis and the Persian Gulf in 1987 at the outset of the recent incidents there. Despite his physical impairment, he rode in aircraft, helicopters, submarines, tanks, and even on flatbed trucks. Many Members will recall seeing him completely exhausted at the end of the day on one of these always-hurried trips, but somehow refreshed and ready to proceed the next morning. His leadership of the Defense Department reorganization effort in 1986 was interrupted by a quintuple heart bypass operation. He was back on the job in less than 8 weeks. BILL

NICHOLS, throughout his life, courageously sacrificed his personal well-being for others.

But he exemplified much more than physical courage. He was a serious person—not humorless, but sincerely committed to making a contribution. A man of character, of strong conviction, he was also open to reasoned dissent. He had a presence that commanded respect, humble, extremely polite, sensitive to the feelings of others, and very dignified. He was a religious person with rigorous standards of conduct. He cared deeply for the people of Alabama and the members of the Armed Forces. Common sense, natural talent, hard work, and diligence combined to make him one of the best judges of defense issues any of us have known. It would be difficult to look back with the advantage of hindsight and fault his judgment on any major national security issue, Many have commented that it is difficult to think of the Committee on Armed Services without the presence of BILL NICHOLS.

Above all, BILL NICHOLS was a hero because he had the moral courage to take a stand on the major issues. Despite his principled, career-long support of a strong national defense, he took on the entire Pentagon, and the President, when he became convinced that change was necessary. The result was the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986. It was my privilege to propose the amendment naming that Act for BILL, It is his ultimate legacy to the American people—the legacy of one who made heroic efforts on their behalf. It ranks in importance with all previous national security legislation, fittingly establishing BILL NICHOLS' proper place in the history of our country.

Mr. ANDERSON. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad occasion for me to take note of the recent passing of my colleague and friend, BILL NICHOLS, with whom I served in Congress for over 20 years. Congressman NICHOLS was a fine and decent man whose concerns for the interest of his constituents in the Third District in Alabama were reflected in all of his activities.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Compensation he earned a reputation as the "Friend of the Serviceman" for his dedication at making the quality of life for military personnel the best it could be. BILL did a great deal for the military, but his concern for the less fortunate and his fellow man were well known and is a memorial in itself.

I join with you in commemorating his life and mourning his passing.

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank our colleague, the distinguished gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Bevill) for reserving this time for us to pay tribute to our good friend, the late BILL NICHOLS. With his passing, the Congress and our Nation lost a dedicated and committed individual.

BILL NICHOLS was well loved by the Third Congressional District of Alabama. He won reelection time again with ease, and he never had any serious opposition. He worked well with his colleagues in the House, earning their respect, and he worked diligently and tirelessly for the Third Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, BILL's energy in the House was spent mostly on matters dealing with the military. BILL NICHOLS fought valiantly for his country during World War II, losing a leg during a land mine explosion. It was fitting and appropriate for BILL NICHOLS to begin and end a career spanning two decades as the fifth ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee.

BILL NICHOLS career on the committee enabled him to assume several leadership positions. His first chairmanship was of the subcommittee that handles personnel matters, pay and benefits. Although he never served as chairman of the full committee, the accomplishments of this southern Democrat on the Armed Services Committee were significant. After the 1982 election, BILL became chairman of the Investigations Subcommittee. As a result of BILL's probe of procurement practices, a desire to change the basic structure of the Pentagon led to the passage of a substantial reform package in the House. BILL NICHOLS leaves a legacy of intelligent and compassionate leadership. His absence will surely leave a void.

Mr. Speaker, I have many fond memories of BILL. He was soft-spoken, courteous, and a real southern gentleman. He always conducted himself with dignity and was highly respected by his colleagues for his legislative skills.

I recall on one occasion calling upon BILL to assist with a problem one of my constituents had in Alabama, He was immediately receptive to the problem and worked on the case as if the constituent were his own. The matter was favorably resolved because of the personal attention BILL gave to the case.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have counted among my friends and colleagues a man such as BILL NICHOLS. I will miss him greatly and I hope that it is some comfort to his wife, Carolyn, and his many friends, that so many others in this Chamber share that emotion.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, BILL NICHOLS' passing was a loss not just to his family and friends and his Alabama constituents, but surely to this institution, the House of Representatives, in which he served so tirelessly for 22 years.

It should be no surprise to anyone who is familiar with BILL NICHOLS record prior to his congressional service that he became such a distinguished member of the House, BILL NICHOLS excelled in virtually all aspects of his extraordinary career, from Auburn University where he received a masters in agronomy and was captain of the football team to his military service where he received a Bronze Star and Purple Heart after losing a leg in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest to the Alabama legislature where the capitol press corps named him the most outstanding member of the Alabama Senate.

I, came to know him late in his career as a colleague on the Armed Services Committee. I gained a quick admiration for his tireless support of the rebuilding of this Nation's defenses,

At the same time, as chairman of the Investigations Subcommittee, BILL was determined to see our military run more efficiently. He led the inquiry into the bombing of the Marine compound in Beirut and a probe into the Pentagon procurement program.

His expertise came to the fore in 1986 with the passage of what is known as the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act, the most sweeping military reform in 40 years and one which BILL called his "proudest achievement."

Mr. Speaker, Thoreau once wrote,

> Even the death of friends will inspire us as much as their lives. Their memories will be incrusted over with sublime and pleasing thoughts, as their monuments are overgrown with moss.

I know that, in life, BILL NICHOLS inspired us in this House. I hope that his passing will also inspire us to live up to the high standard of public service he set and also to continue to fight for those beliefs he held so dear—among which was his belief that a strong and efficient military is vital to deterrence of war and the defense of freedom at home and abroad.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Speaker, our late colleague BILL NICHOLS was a Congressman's Congressman, a person therefore who was a fountain of good judgment for each of us who served with him.

He was also a spiritual leader, whose contribution to good fellowship in the House was well illustrated by his leadership in the House prayer breakfast group.

He was a magnificent man—we all miss him.

Mr. MYERS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, it is with heartfelt deep sadness that I join the many friends of BILL NICHOLS in remembering his life and service to the U.S. House of Representatives and to his country.

BILL always distinguished himself whatever he did or wherever he was. he served in Europe during WW II as an artillery officer, losing his leg by stepping on a land mine. after a long hospital stay he came back to his home in Alabama.

After serving in the Alabama House and Senate he was elected to the 90th Congress and my friendship with BILL began. We were freshman among 69 new Members. Now there are only seven of us still serving in the House from that group.

Remembering BILL and his many years in this body, two things continue to come up. His loyalty and his integrity. It didn't really make any difference to BILL whether a colleague was a Democrat or Republican, he would share his time and suggestions with all.

This House, his beloved State of Alabama, the Nation are better today because BILL lived, he cared, and he shared. It is has been an honor for me to have known BILL and to have had the privilege of serving with him here in the House for 22 years.

My wife Carol joins us in extending our prayers to his wife Carolyn and their family.

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to pay my last and most sincere tribute to BILL NICHOLS. I know every Member of this House was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of BILL. His steadfastness and unswerving loyalty were traits that we all tried to emulate.

BILL's career in this body was remarkable. He always voted his conscience and fought for what he felt was right. BILL was a staunch defender of a strong and ready America

and he did all that was in his power to ensure that America was strong, was ready.

BILL was always proud of the faith and trust emplaced upon him by his constituents. their faith, as we all know, was not misplaced. BILL always had the members of his district in mind, arguing for a healthy steel and textile industry, providing for rural Americans, and extolling the joys and beauty of the South.

Mr. Speaker, this House has lost a true friend, There are many of us who looked to BILL for leadership and counsel. He never failed us. I offer my most sincere condolences to BILL's wife Carolyn and his children. Their grief is greatest but they had the joy of knowing BILL so closely for so many years and this hopefully will be of great comfort to them. I salute BILL NICHOLS for his selfless life and I salute his family for they all carry BILL in their spirits.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my House colleagues today in paying appropriate tribute to the late BILL NICHOLS—our good friend and distinguished colleague from the great State of Alabama. It is difficult for me to add to the words already expressed here today about BILL. He has been fondly remembered by Members from both sides of the aisle, and I want to endorse their fitting comments and wonderful stories about a terrific man.

BILL NICHOLS will be missed greatly in the Chamber. We have just celebrated the 200th anniversary of the Congress and, with all the bicentennial attention, I find it regretful that our friend BILL NICHOLS—who really reflected the very best that this House stands for and has stood for over 200 years—is not here to share this moment with us.

As we recall those who have labored long and hard for the good of their districts, the benefits of their respective States and for the best of the Nation, at large, we must remember BILL among those who provided the leadership America needs and deserves. He was a hero of World War II, and defender of the very principles of democracy that we are sworn to uphold daily, and the champion of what's right and proper about this Nation.

I came to Congress with BILL and I can assure his family that he had my deepest admiration and respect by any measure of the man. I extend my sympathy to his lovely wife Carolyn, and the Nichols family.

Mr. HORTON, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share for a few moments some thoughts on our colleague BILL NICHOLS who

passed away last year. I also want to relay the thoughts of the members of the 108th Infantry, 2d Battalion Association.

BILL NICHOLS will best be remembered for his dedicated and outstanding service as a member of the Armed Services Committee. Throughout his career, BILL made sure that our fighting forces were equipped for their missions. He was always a friend of GI's and worked to ensure that they and their families could lead comfortable lives.

BILL will also be remembered for his efforts to improve the efficiency and competitiveness of the Pentagon's procurement process. as the 101st Congress looks into the current problems with procurement, we should look to BILL's legacy for guidance on how to improve the current situation.

BILL's commitment to our Nation's defense started long before he came to the Congress in 1967. As many of us know, he was a decorated combat veteran who lost his left leg as a result of a land mine explosion in the Hurtgen Forest. Despite this setback, BILL lead a fulfilling life.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to share the thoughts of the men of the 108th Infantry 2d Battalion Association. These veterans developed a special relationship with BILL since they trained for the Second World War at Fort McClellan which is in the Third District of Alabama. In October of last year, the association recognized BILL's contributions to our Nation's defense with their "Award of Appreciation." BILL was also granted an honorary membership in the 108th Infantry 2d Battalion Association. My good friend Joe Taddeo, who is the association's president, asked me to pass along the group's condolences to BILL's lovely wife Carolyn. My wife Nancy and I want to join in that sentiment when we express to Carolyn our most heartfelt thoughts and prayers. Mr. Speaker, the 101st Congress suffered a tremendous loss even before it began. It is my hope that the memory of BILL's dedication to this Nation will guide the new Congress toward excellence.

Mr. ANNUNZIO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join with my colleagues in the House of Representatives in paying tribute to Congressman BILL NICHOLS, whose sudden death on December 13 was a tremendous loss to the people of this Nation.

Congressman NICHOLS dedicated his life to public service, and I was privileged to have served with him during the entire 22 years he served as a Member of the House of Representatives.

Before coming to Congress, BILL NICHOLS served our country with distinction during World War II. He received both the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart for his heroic actions during this war, Also, he served in the Alabama State House from 1959 to 1963, and then was elected to the Alabama State Senate in 1963.

Elected to the 90th Congress in 1966, Congressman NICHOLS ably represented his constituents from the Third Congressional District of Alabama. His exemplary service as chairman of the Subcommittee on Investigations of the House Armed Services Committee helped to uncover faulty procurement procedures in the Defense Department. He also served as a member of the Subcommittee on Military Personnel and Compensation and the Subcommittee on Readiness, and was highly respected by his colleagues for his expertise on defense matters.

Congressman NICHOLS was a fine legislator, and a man of great compassion and courage, who will be sorely missed by all of us in the House of Representatives who had the opportunity to work with him.

Mrs. Annunzio and I extend our deepest sympathy to his widow, Carolyn, and to the other members of his family who survive him.

Mr. ERDREICH. Mr. Speaker, the death of my friend and colleague, BILL NICHOLS, has left a tremendous void in the lives of all those who knew him. His death was a great blow to his family and loved ones, but it has also had a tremendous impact on so many others. I certainly will miss his friendship, advice, and counsel, as will the rest of the Alabama congressional delegation.

His excellent and wise representation of the Third District of Alabama will most certainly be missed by those he so faithfully served, as will his honesty and integrity be missed by the entire Nation.

BILL NICHOLS always put the best interests of his State and country at the forefront of his political agenda. He was assigned to the 8th Infantry Division as an artillery officer during World War II, and distinguished himself in combat. He was critically wounded in 1944 and removed from action. For the bravery he displayed while risking his life on behalf of his country, he was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Following his return to private life, and at the urging of his friends, BILL entered the political arena, and was elected

to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1959 and the Alabama Senate in 1963. Again, his outstanding service won him many honors; in 1965, he was voted "Most Outstanding Member of the Alabama Senate" by the capitol press corps.

BILL moved on to the national political arena in 1966, and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. After securing a position on the House Armed Services Committee and serving with distinction as a committee member, he rose to the position of chairman of the Subcommittee on Investigations and headed it through the end of the 100th Congress. The Subcommittee examinations he initiated into defense issues led him to join Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater in introducing the Goldwater-Nichols Reorganization Act of 1986, which many have called the most far-reaching piece of military-related legislation to be approved by Congress in over 40 years.

During his 22 years in the House of Representatives, BILL served with a sense of fairness, always taking into account the concerns of the people he served in the Third District and entire State of Alabama. He was a good friend to all of us, and our State, and we have all benefited from his wise counsel. Our Nation is better off because of his leadership and we will all miss him tremendously.

Mr. QUILLEN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in remembering our friend BILL NICHOLS who suffered a fatal heart attack and passed away last December 13.

Congressman NICHOLS represented the people of Alabama's Third Congressional District in the House for 11 terms with genuine distinction. It was an honor to serve with BILL NICHOLS during those 22 years and his passing is a great loss to all of us.

Congressman NICHOLS is probably best remembered as a hard-working, straightforward Member who was devoted to the armed services and the national security of the United States. He was a World War II veteran who lost a leg in combat and it was on the House Committee on Armed Services that Congressman NICHOLS made his mark during his long and distinguished congressional career.

Although he was without peer in his dedication to our armed services and their mission, Congressman NICHOLS was responsible for leading the effort which reformed the procurement system at the Pentagon and he also played a crucial role in the 1986 Defense Department Reorganization Act.

I will miss BILL NICHOLS. He was a fine and decent man, he was a patriot, and he was an outstanding Member of Congress. In this time of sorrow, I want to extend my condolences to BILL's lovely wife, Carolyn, and their children.

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, the passing away of BILL NICHOLS leaves this Chamber with a loss it will long suffer.

BILL NICHOLS was a fine gentleman, a great patriot and an outstanding Member of Congress. He served as an Alabama Congressman for over two decades after his first election to the House of Representatives in 1966. Almost all of those years were particularly devoted to the workings of the House Armed Services Committee. He used his military background well in seeing that the Nation's defenses were built up to preserve our freedom from outside violence. He trained for military service in Auburn University's ROTC program prior to his graduation from that fine scholastic institution. Called to active duty following this country's entry into World War II, he served with the 8th Infantry Division and distinguished himself in combat in France and Germany until critically wounded in the Hurtgen Forest. His courage under enemy fire won him the Bronze Star and Purple Heart decorations.

Not only did he strive to make our defenses strong, but he did his utmost to improve the quality of life for military personnel. Because of his endeavors, enlisted volunteers in America's armed services receive compensation and benefits more realistic to their worth than before BILL NICHOLS took up the task.

We were privileged to call BILL NICHOLS a special friend. He was a witty, intelligent Southern gentleman with whom we spent many pleasant moments.

BILL NICHOLS will long be remembered for the great service he gave to his country both in peace and in war.

Mr. WATKINS. Mr. Speaker, Representative BILL NICHOLS was not only a colleague but a good friend. We all share in the sorrow at the passing of this great man. He was one of the most beloved Members with which I have had the honor to serve. He was a devoted husband, father and spoke often of his family. He was a very devout man who without question was prepared to meet his God. He was a source of inspiration each Thursday morning when I looked across the table and saw him at the weekly Member's prayer breakfast, It was a comfort and a joy to know that he was always there. Not only did we look forward to this time of inspiration and

breaking bread but we also shared a love for rural America and agriculture. Perhaps BILL is best described in this poem by Ben Burroughs:

IT SHOWS IN YOUR FACE

You don't have to tell how you live each day;
You don't have to say if you work or play,
A tried true barometer serves in the place,
However you live, it shows in your face.

The false, the deceit that you wear in your heart
Will not stay inside where it got its start;
For sinew and blood is a thin veil of lace,
However you live, it shows in your face.

If you have battled and won in the game of life,
If you feel you've conquered the sorrow and strife;
If you've played the game square and you stand on first base,
You don't have to tell it, it shows in your face.

If your life's been unselfish; for others you live;
And not what you get but what you can give
And you live close to God, in his infinite Grace,
You don't have to tell it, it shows in your face.

There is no question as to where BILL NICHOLS stood. His face reflected love for his fellow man. For him, an unselfish manner was the standard not the exception. Many that have come to serve in this great institution have found the system attempting to change their actions and motives. My friend BILL was in full control. And that, I believe, to be because of his relationship with his God. Well-done BILL, you have been a good servant of the people and you will not be soon forgotten by this great institution. As for me, I will carry fond memories and be thankful that BILL NICHOLS passed my way.

Mr. HUGHES. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we gather to honor the memory of our late friend and colleague, BILL NICHOLS.

It somehow seems fitting that BILL's last moments were spent in his office, at his desk, working at the job to which he devoted so much of his time and energy. For 22 years he served the people of Alabama, and his Nation, with honor and distinction. The BILL NICHOLS I came to know personally was not only a quiet but effective legislator, but also a man of rare courage and conviction.

As one of the ranking members of the Committee on Armed Services, and as chairman of the Investigations subcommittee, BILL came to be widely regarded as a leader in defense policy issues. His tenure in the Congress was marked

by a resolute commitment to strengthen and improve the readiness of our defense forces.

Mr. Speaker, for over two decades, from the depths of the cold war to the promise of glasnost, BILL NICHOLS was a central figure in shaping America's response to events in a dangerous world. We are a stronger nation as a result of his dedication, and I know I speak for all of us when I say that this House will sorely miss his expertise and his wisdom. I want to join with my colleagues in extending our deepest sympathies to his family and his many friends.

Mr. DARDEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. Dickinson), the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, for sponsoring the special orders for BILL NICHOLS.

No other Member of this body exemplified the dedication to fair play and justice than did Chairman NICHOLS. He was always known for his ability to calm the storm and reach a bipartisan solution, which was always in the best interest of the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I write a weekly newspaper column for the news media in Georgia's Seventh District. Following Chairman Nichols' death I believed it fitting to express my feelings about BILL to my constituents, and more importantly, point out the impact he had on the military strength of our great Nation. I ask to insert a copy of this column in the Record:

BILL NICHOLS LEFT LEGACY OF NEW STRUCTURE FOR THE NATION'S ARMED SERVICES

(By Congressman George "Buddy" Darden)

BILL NICHOLS once told someone that he "put in a little time in the service—combat time." He did not add that a land mine explosion in World War II cost him a leg.

BILL knew, from personal experience, the everlasting damage that war brings. That may well have been why he worked so hard to make sure his country's armed forces were so strong and well-organized that they would discourage any potential adversary from mounting a challenge; he wanted to save generations from having to share his experience.

Until his death just before Christmas, BILL was Alabama's 3rd District Congressman. He was a valuable member of the House Armed Services Committee, and the Chairman of its Investigations Subcommittee. And, in the five years we worked together, he became my good friend.

BILL died suddenly and unexpectedly on a Tuesday morning. He had easily won re-election to a 12th term only five weeks earlier. at age 70, and with a history of heart trouble, you might have expected him to take it easy while Congress was out of session. but he had gone to his Washington office

before sunrise to begin getting ready for the 101st Congress, and it was there that a fatal heart attack struck.

Just the night before, BILL and his wife Carolyn attended the annual White House Christmas party; Lillian and I had an enjoyable time discussing with them our plans for the coming year. President Reagan took time to greet BILL and thank him for his strong support of the President's defense budget.

BILL's credentials as a proponent of a strong national defense were unassailable, and that reputation served to his—and the nation's—advantage in recent years as he demanded reform of the Pentagon's management structure and procurement system. He knew that only a strong America could survive military challenges; he also knew that strength could not be maintained if inter-service rivalries took precedence over well-coordinated military operations, or if public support for the armed forces was undermined by reports of outlandishly high costs for weapons and other supplies.

Through his leadership of the Investigations Subcommittee, he pressed the Pentagon to pay more attention to program and weapons costs. lie became the primary House sponsor of legislation to streamline the military chain of command and give the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff more power to impose unity among the service branches. That reorganization measure came to be known as the Goldwater-Nichols Act, honoring BILL NICHOLS and its leading proponent on the other side of Capitol Hill, then Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater.

BILL NICHOLS was always courteous and considerate of all his colleagues, whether they were senior or junior to him. I consider him a positive example for all members of Congress to follow, because he had that admirable ability to disagree without being disagreeable. He was a true gentleman, but he never failed to express or vote his convictions.

MONDAY, *March 6, 1989.*

Mr. DYSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague, the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee for offering me this opportunity to remember a true American patriot, BILL NICHOLS. I again extend my sympathy to his wife, Carolyn, his family, his many friends, and the people of his district whom he proudly served for over 20 years.

I am honored that BILL considered me his friend. His leadership will be missed, not only in the House Armed Services Committee, where he distinguished himself as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Investigations, but by all of his colleagues and the Nation to which he dedicated his life.

I will always remember BILL NICHOLS as a gracious Southern gentleman. He was never too busy to give his advice when I requested it and he was never carried away with the trappings of his office.

In fact, I was recently told a story about BILL that I would like to share with my colleagues. On a recent stop at a small country store in my district, the owner told me that BILL NICHOLS had been a regular customer when he was goose hunting on the Eastern Shore. As a matter of fact, BILL had been going to that store for almost 15 years. This merchant knew him by sight and by the name of BILL NICHOLS. He knew his name because BILL had introduced himself on his first visit and because BILL always had the time to stop and converse when he visited this store. It was nearly 15 years before this storeowner learned that BILL NICHOLS was a Congressman.

When he recounted this story, my constituent told me that he would forever be impressed with Congressman NICHOLS because he was, and I quote, "One incredibly nice man."

I believe that is just the way that the thousands of people who met BILL NICHOLS in his career felt as well. BILL NICHOLS will always be remembered for his outstanding leadership and work in the reorganization of the Department of Defense, an accomplishment which will forever be remembered as the Goldwater-Nichols bill. In addition to his many legislative achievements, he will be remembered by most as a man who cared. He cared about his country and he cared about the people he served.

It was a privilege to serve with BILL NICHOLS. He was a leader among leaders and his service in this great body of government has permitted our country to become a stronger and safer nation.

WEDNESDAY, *March 8, 1989.*

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, BILL NICHOLS was a patriot, a good family man, a cherished friend to many of us, a respected colleague dedicated to the well-being of our Nation and his constituents, and a believer who lived by the golden rule.

We miss his wise counsel and the warmth of his friendship.

WEDNESDAY, *March 15, 1989.*

Mr. RAY. Mr. Speaker, BILL NICHOLS is remembered as a farmer, scholar, athlete, soldier, businessman, church-

member, State legislator, U.S. Representative, and House subcommittee chairman. However, in my opinion, the best description of BILL NICHOLS is that of patriot.

BILL NICHOLS was born on a small farm in Mississippi. Soon afterward, his family moved to Sylacauga, AL, where he grew up. BILL graduated from Sylacauga High School and attended Auburn University. At Auburn, he was the captain of the 1940 football team and was accepted to three honorary fraternities: The Blue Key, Gamma Sigma Delta, and the Scabbard and Blade. BILL received a B.S. degree in agriculture and a master's degree in Agronomy.

BILL NICHOLS entered the army in 1942 as a second lieutenant and was assigned to the 8th Infantry Division. During the battle of the Hurtgen Forest, Germany, BILL was critically wounded. He was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart, and was retired at the grade of captain.

After the war, BILL returned to Sylacauga and entered private business. He became active in community affairs by serving on the Sylacauga School Board and on the board of stewards of the First Methodist Church of Sylacauga.

BILL NICHOLS was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives in 1959 and to the Alabama Senate in 1963. The capitol press corps voted him the "most outstanding member of the Alabama Senate" in 1965.

BILL NICHOLS was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1966. Throughout his 11 terms of service he worked to keep the Armed Forces strong and efficient. He sought to improve the quality of life for our military people and earned the reputation as a "friend of the serviceman." Of his numerous legislative accomplishments, one of the most outstanding was the Goldwater-Nichols Reorganization Act of 1986, which restructured the Department of Defense. Many have said that this bill was the most far-reaching piece of defense-related legislation in more than 40 years.

I am proud and honored to have served with BILL NICHOLS these past 6 years. We worked closely on behalf of the people of the Third District of Georgia and the Third District of Alabama, and I always found BILL to be hard working and dedicated to his constituents. He was more than a colleague, he was a friend.

Proceedings in the Senate

TUESDAY, *January 3, 1989.*

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I was deeply saddened by the death on December 13, 1988, of my close friend and colleague from Sylacauga, AL, Representative BILL NICHOLS. His death came as a great shock to me and left the entire State of Alabama with an enormous sense of loss. In my judgment, Representative NICHOLS embodied the ideal Congressman striving to make America a better place to live while never forgetting his roots nor the good people of Alabama who elected him.

BILL NICHOLS was an incredibly talented and intelligent man. He was also the type of man who would go out of his way to help another person and to help his country. He succeeded fabulously at everything he attempted and has left behind a legacy which would make any man proud.

In all that he did, BILL NICHOLS made a difference. He graduated from Auburn University in 1939 and earned a master's degree from there in 1941. In addition to his studies BILL devoted himself to athletics, serving as captain of the Auburn football team. Like many others his age, BILL went to fight for his country in World War II. BILL fought with honor and distinction, earning both the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. His Purple Heart was awarded after he stepped on a land mine during the Battle of Hurtgen Forest in Germany. BILL underwent 19 operations but eventually lost his leg. To some the loss of a leg would have been devastating, but BILL viewed it as an inconvenience which he promptly overcame. As in the rest of his life, BILL absorbed the minor setbacks and continued with his life, serving as president of both the Parker Fertilizer Co. and the Parker Gin Co. in Sylacauga, AL.

BILL NICHOLS most important work began when he was elected in 1966 to represent eastern Alabama's Third Congressional District. He was an effective, caring, and immensely popular Congressman. This past October he was

elected to his 12th consecutive term and was diligently working at his desk at 7:30 am. during recess when he suffered a heart attack.

Perhaps it is fitting that BILL was working when he died. He had a great passion for helping people, especially his eastern Alabama constituents. Somehow BILL always seemed above politics. He had an incredible rapport with the common man and was able to help people without regard to reelection. Of course, it was this type of compassion and caring which made BILL NICHOLS more than a politician—he was a statesman in the most noble sense of the word.

As you can tell by his war record, BILL felt strongly about the defense of this Nation. Throughout his time in Congress, BILL's influence on the House Armed Services Committee increased and eventually he was picked to head the Investigations Subcommittee. It is perhaps from this subcommittee that BILL had the most impact on legislation. In 1986, Congress passed the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act which helped eliminate waste by restructuring the command hierarchies of the Pentagon and the military services. He also played a large role in the investigations which revealed questionable military expenditures like $400 Navy hammers and $5,000 Air Force coffee pots. NICHOLS amended a military spending bill to eliminate such wasteful practices.

BILL NICHOLS was not flashy, yet he was wonderfully effective. He worried less about perceptions than about results. He was unpretentious and driven. He was honest with himself and honest with others. It is this straightforwardness and caring which endeared him to so many.

BILL NICHOLS was an outstanding Congressman whose efforts will be missed by Alabama and by the entire Nation. BILL's death was a great blow to thousands of people. I have lost a close and devoted friend and I will miss him greatly.

WEDNESDAY, *January 4, 1989.*

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Congressman BILL NICHOLS, a member of the Alabama delegation whom we recently lost to a sudden heart attack. BILL NICHOLS will be remembered as one of Alabama's most outstanding Congressmen. Throughout his 22-year political career, NICHOLS illustrated to his State and to his colleagues that he was a man of integrity, as well as, a man of great

compassion. Quite simply, BILL NICHOLS dedicated his entire life to serving his country.

Before entering a life of politics, BILL NICHOLS demonstrated his commitment to his country by joining the U.S. Army. He was one of many young American soldiers who saw action on the battlefields of World War II. Although NICHOLS tragically lost his left leg to a land mine, he was a man of great courage and was rewarded by his country. For his service in the war, NICHOLS received a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart—badges of extreme honor. Serving in the U.S. Army was only natural for this great man who so strongly believed in the democratic principles which govern this great Nation.

This dedication to his country propelled BILL into the forefront of Alabama politics. He served in Alabama's State Legislature and was recognized as the most outstanding member of the Alabama Senate in 1965. The following year the people of Alabama wisely sent him to Congress, where he was reelected to each succeeding Congress.

While in Washington, BILL NICHOLS became a formidable and highly respected member of the House Armed Services Committee. His record was one of strength on the most vital decisions that affect our national security. On many occasions, he was called upon by America's leaders to offer his counsel on defense policy. NICHOLS received nationwide attention for his outstanding leadership ability in military matters when this country was rocked by a defense procurement scandal in 1986. As chairman of the House Subcommittee on Investigations, BILL NICHOLS worked tirelessly to ensure that the system would not break down in the future. NICHOLS was responsible for drafting a landmark piece of legislation which restructured the positions of command in the Pentagon and military services. The measure became known as the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act.

BILL NICHOLS was a model public servant. He will be remembered for his enormous strength and quiet intensity, as well as, for his remarkable ability to get the job done and to do it well. His dedication and commitment to his country mark him as one of our Nation's great leaders.

I am proud that I had the opportunity to work with BILL NICHOLS these past 10 years in Congress. He was a valuable friend whose advice I sought on many occasions. I will miss him.

My heart goes out to BILL's wife, Carolyn, and his three children, Memorie, Margaret, and Flynt. Their grief is shared by all those who were touched by BILL NICHOLS' life.

WEDNESDAY, *January 25, 1989.*

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, like all of my colleagues in the Congress, I was deeply saddened by the death last December 13 of my close friend and colleague Congressman BILL NICHOLS.

I knew and worked with BILL NICHOLS from my first days in the U.S. Senate. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee, BILL worked tirelessly to promote a strong and effective national defense. When I was chairman of the Manpower and Personnel Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee in the mid-1970's, BILL NICHOLS was my counterpart on the House Armed Services Committee. His dedication and commitment to the men and women in uniform was evident to all. I recall our work on the landmark personnel legislation of the 1970's—the Defense Office Personnel Management Act and the pay and benefits legislation of the late 1970's.

BILL NICHOLS became involved in another piece of landmark defense legislation in the 1980's—the effort to reorganize and reform the Pentagon. The passage of the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 represented the most far-reaching reform of the national security establishment since the National Security Act of 1947. Along with Senator Goldwater, BILL NICHOLS was one of the driving forces behind this milestone legislation, and his colleagues in the Congress recognized BILL NICHOLS' role in this historic effort by naming the legislation after him and Senator Goldwater.

BILL NICHOLS ably represented the people of the Third District of Alabama for 22 years, but he was also a statesman of national stature. All of us in the Congress will miss his wise counsel and gentle humor.

Secretary of the Navy William Ball also knew BILL NICHOLS well, and Secretary Ball recently wrote a very moving tribute to BILL NICHOLS. I ask unanimous consent that Secretary Ball's tribute, most of which appeared in the Washington Post on January 3, be inserted in the Record at this point.

There being no objection, the tribute was ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

REMEMBER BILL NICHOLS

(By William L. Ball III)

There will be sensed a missing presence as members of the House of Representatives are sworn in at the Capitol today. Sadly, the Third District of Alabama will not be represented, its citizens having gathered to bury their Congressman ten days before Christmas.

To colleagues, constituents, and those both in and out of government who knew him, BILL NICHOLS was a man of uncommon strength and uncommon virtue. His way was that of one who had been tested by hardship time and again, who had bested obstacles few would ever confront, and yet who instinctively never forgot the simple rule at the core of his steady values. To exercise good sense, which was his practice, he knew that a Congressman had to remember who he was . . . and where he came from.

To fellow southerners, he was a model public man, admired for his considerate treatment of people from all stations in life, his agreeable manner and his genuine interest in the circumstances of others . . . his selflessness, unquestioned integrity, and the strength of his convictions. For a time in Alabama he was a cotton man, which meant above all he was fair. Always fair.

So obvious were these qualities in BILL NICHOLS and so sudden his departure from us that no amount of mourning can compensate for the tributes he deserved here but never received. So many were those whom he inspired in the old-fashioned way—not by image but by living example—that he leaves empty on this day far more than one seat in the House.

There is a diminished roster now in the Congress of those who had a part in two of the traumas of this the American century. BILL NICHOLS saw what the Great Depression wrought on the rural South—his eleventh birthday was two weeks before the stock market crash. Twelve years later he left Auburn University for combat service in the German forests on the front lines of World War II. Those experiences gave to BILL NICHOLS and thousands of others who survived war and depression an extraordinary and even historic determination to succeed, to serve, and to create opportunities for America's next generation.

And that's exactly what they did. With an impact and reach none could foresee in 1945, they rebuilt, retooled, and regenerated over the span of four decades a country that without them surely would not have hit full stride.

So, of the achievements of BILL NICHOLS and the legacy of his generation, my generation ought to pause and take note. The gentleman from Alabama worked hard to preclude the repetition of mistakes for which his generation paid an awful price. The lessons of his remarkable life are many and the good of the republic requires that they be heeded. And were he here today and asked by the freshman House Members in the class of '88 what one thing they above all should do . . . well, he would smile, and with that good-natured twinkle in his eye suggest quietly that a Congressman ought to always remember who he is . . . and where he comes from.

Newspaper Tributes

[Washington Post, December 14, 1988]

Alabama Democratic Representative Bill Nichols Dies at 70

(By Richard Pearson)

Bill Nichols, 70, an Alabama Democrat who had served in the House since 1967 and who was a subcommittee chairman of the Armed Services Committee became a powerful and knowledgeable force for military reform, died yesterday after a heart attack.

Representative Nichols, who had been found shortly after 7 a.m. collapsed at his desk in the Rayburn House Office, was pronounced dead about an hour later at Capitol Hill Hospital. He had undergone heart bypass surgery in 1985.

He was chairman of the Armed Services Committee's investigations subcommittee since 1983. At that time, many predicted that the conservative southerner, who had been a floor leader for Governor George C. Wallace (D) in the Alabama legislature, would not rock the Pentagon boat. They noted that he had been a strong supporter of the war in Vietnam and had always voted on the side of the brass in questions involving everything from budgets to bombers and had devoted his congressional career to defense matters.

Many were in for a shock. Representative Nichols led his subcommittee on investigations that exposed everything from procurement problems to faulty military command systems. His panel's 1983 investigation of the Pentagon's "spare parts" program featured such questionable programs as the purchase of Navy hammers costing $400 each and the Air Force $5,000 coffee pot. These investigations led to measures providing better legislative oversight of Pentagon procurement.

But it was the October 1983 bombing of Marines in Beirut that radicalized him, he told reporters. A lone terrorist in a truck loaded with explosives penetrated Marine defenses and killed 241 servicemen. "That picture became indelibly printed in my mind," he later said in a 1986 Post interview. He also said the incident drove him toward reform of the military chain of command.

He also told the reporter of having visited the Marines in Beirut before the attack, and how he and other subcommittee members did not like what they saw. "We were worried about their defenses and said so at the time," he said.

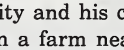
Representative Nichols also pointed out that he knew something about what he was talking about. "I put in a little time in the service—combat time," he said. He served with the Army in Europe during World War II. As a lieutenant with an artillery battery lieutenant with an artillery battery supporting the 8th Infantry Regiment in the battle for the Hurtgen Forest, he lost a leg when a land mine exploded under him.

In 1986, the House passed the "Bill Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986" on a vote of 406 to 4. Senator Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.), then chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and Senator Sam Nunn (Ga.), the committee's ranking Democrat, guided similar legislation through the Senate, against stiff Pentagon opposition.

Congress passed what had become the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act in 1986. The legislation overhauled command structures in the upper levels of the armed forces, gave new authority to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, created the post of vice chairman, and called upon the services to better integrate commands. Representative NICHOLS had pointed out that, for example, in the case of Beirut, while Army General Bernard Rogers, as head of the European Command, was responsible for the Marines' actions, he had very limited authority to issue orders. These problems were addressed in the act.

After its passage, Representative NICHOLS said it was his "proudest achievement." Goldwater, with characteristic bluntness, said "it's the only g**d*** thing I've done in the Senate that's worth a d***." Armed Services Committee Chairman Representative Les Aspin (D-Wis.) said that Representative NICHOLS "will be missed in this committee for many reasons, but most especially for this integrity and his calmness under pressure." Representative NICHOLS was born on a farm near Becker, Miss., and grew up in Sylacauga, Ala. He graduated with an agriculture degree from Auburn University in 1939, where he was captain of the football team, and received a master's degree in 1941. After the war, in which he earned the Bronze Star and received the Purple Heart, he was president of the Parker Fertilizer Co. and the Parker Gin Co., both of Sylacauga. He served in the Alabama House from 1959 to 1963, then in the state Senate until coming to Washington. During his years in the legislature, he led efforts to provide free textbooks to children in public schools.

Survivors include his wife, the former Carolyn Funderburk, of Alexandria and Sylacauga; two daughters, Margaret Vlachos of Athens, and Memorie Mitchell of Birmingham; a son, Flynt, of Dallas, and three grandchildren.



[New York Times, December 14, 1988]

REPRESENTATIVE BILL NICHOLS, 70; LED PENTAGON INQUIRY

Representative BILL NICHOLS, Democrat of Alabama, who led a Congressional investigation into prices paid by the Pentagon for spare parts, was pronounced dead at Capitol Hill Hospital today after suffering a heart attack in his office. He was 70 years old.

Mr. NICHOLS was first elected to the House in 1966 to represent the Third District of eastern Alabama. Last month he won a 12th term. Mr. NICHOLS, who lost a leg in World War II, was a strong supporter of the military and President Reagan's Pentagon build-up.

After he took over the Investigations Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee in 1983, however, he presided over a series of investigations into high-priced spare parts, such as $400 Navy hammers and $5,000 coffee pots for the Air Force. The hearings helped lead to Pentagon reform legislation.

The Congressman, who grew up and lived in Sylacauga, Ala., earned an undergraduate degree in agriculture from Auburn University in 1939 and a master's degree in 1941. He was captain of the football team in 1940. In World War II, fighting with the Army in Europe, he lost a leg in a land mine explosion. He was awarded a Bronze Star.

After the war he was president of the Parker Fertilizer Company and the Parker Gin Company in Sylacauga. He served in the Alabama House from

1959 to 1963 and in the Alabama Senate from 1963 until he was elected to the House.

Surviving are his wife, the former Carolyn Funderburk; two daughters, Margaret Vlachos of Athens, Greece, and Memorie Mitchell of Birmingham, Ala.; a son, Flynt Nichols of Dallas; and three grandchildren.

[Birmingham Post-Herald, December 14, 1988]

MANY MOURN DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE BILL NICHOLS

(By John Brinkley)

COLLEAGUES IN CONGRESS PRAISE SELF-DESCRIBED "SHARECROPPER"

With the death yesterday of BILL NICHOLS, Alabama lost a sense of quiet humility not often seen in a U.S. representative.

NICHOLS, a 22-year Democratic veteran of the House, died yesterday morning of a heart attack he suffered at his Capitol Hill office. He was 70.

A former Auburn football star who lost his leg in World War II, NICHOLS was praised yesterday by colleagues for his gentle, unassuming nature. Indeed, he sometimes referred to himself as a "sharecropper," despite holding a master's degree in agriculture from Auburn University.

"He was typically here at 7 or 8 in the morning," said Representative Ben Erdreich, D-Birmingham. "I kidded him often about, 'You get up early to plow the back 40 before you get to work.' He laughed and he said he's just a country boy and he used to always get up early and he's not going to change just because he got elected to Congress."

Representative William Dickinson, R-Montgomery, who called NICHOLS one of his oldest and best friends, recalled when NICHOLS walked away from a change to be chairman of the House Armed Services Committee. Dickinson said that when committee member Les Aspin, D-Wis., ran for the chairmanship that year, he jumped over several people in seniority, including NICHOLS.

After the House Democratic Caucus voted to remove Representative Melvin Price, D-Ill., from the chairmanship because of his advanced age and infirmity, "many of BILL's friends urged him to run for chairman, and I think he could have gotten it." Dickinson said.

"BILL elected not to do this, saying he had agreed to nominate Charlie Bennett (D-Fla.), who was the No. 2 guy in seniority, and since he was going to nominate him, he didn't feel right having his name put in opposition to Bennett. And so he wouldn't let his name be put forth.

Governor Guy Hunt ordered flags in the state lowered to half-staff.

NICHOLS' press secretary, Tom McMahon, said the representative's wife, Carolyn, had dropped him off at his office about 7 a.m.

Shortly after he arrived, staff member Flora Merchant "heard something fall in the congressman's office," McMahon said. Ms. Merchant went inside and found NICHOLS "had passed out behind his desk."

She called an ambulance, then ran to Dickinson's office next door for help. A team of paramedics took NICHOLS to Capitol Hill Hospital, about 12 blocks from NICHOLS' office on the fourth floor of the Rayburn House Office Building. He was pronounced dead of cardiac arrest at 8:16 a.m.

NICHOLS was born October 16, 1918, on a farm near Becker, Miss., but grew up in Sylacauga, where he lived his entire life.

He graduated in 1939 from Auburn, where he was an all-Southeastern Conference football player. He earned his master's degree three years later.

Auburn President James E. Martin said the university last month gave NICHOLS the highest honor it can bestow on a former athlete, the Walter Gilbert Award.

During World War II, when he was an Army infantry officer, NICHOLS lost most of his left leg to a German land mine. He walked with an artificial leg, but it hardly impeded his movement.

After the war, during which he won a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart, he became vice president of Parker Fertilizer Co. and the president of the Parker Gin Co., both in Sylacauga.

From 1963 to 1967, he served in the Alabama Senate, where he was floor leader for then-Governor George Wallace. He was elected to Congress in 1966.

NICHOLS' best-known legislative achievement was bringing about a massive reorganization of the command structures of the Pentagon and the military services. He called it his "proudest achievement."

Passed in 1986, it was knows as the "Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act," named for him and then-Senator Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., who was the author of the Senate version of the bill.

Funeral is scheduled for 1 p.m. tomorrow at First United Methodist Church of Sylacauga, with burial in Marble City Cemetery.

In addition to his wife, NICHOLS is survived by two daughters, Margaret Vlachos, who recently married and moved to Athens, Greece, and Memorie Mitchell of Birmingham; and a son, Flynt Nichols of Dallas. He had three grandchildren.

His body was flown last night on an Air Force plane from Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland to Birmingham.

SYLACAUGA MOURNS NICHOLS' DEATH

(By Michaelle Chapman)

The iciness of the air could not compare with the chill sent through U.S. Representative BILL NICHOLS' hometown yesterday morning by news of his death.

Mayor James Payton said he refused to believe NICHOLS had died until it was confirmed from Washington. Meanwhile, Sylacauga was buzzing, as residents heard newscasts or received calls from friends and relatives.

By late morning, flags throughout town had been lowered to half-staff and those who knew NICHOLS spoke of the loss their small Talladega County city had suffered.

"I don't remember every hearing anything negative about the man," Payton said.

"Everybody has his own personal story as to why that loss was so great," the mayor said. He said NICHOLS returned home whenever Congress was not in session and paid close attention to the problems of his constituents.

Payton and other Sylacauga residents said NICHOLS always took action when a constituent asked for help. He was not a man to forget promises or leave anyone waiting long for an answer.

Dr. Morris Hollis, NICHOLS' dentist and longtime friend, said he has never known a more levelheaded man than NICHOLS. The political would sit quietly and listen to a discussion of a problem and then "he would very politely

make a suggestion" that was the obvious solution but that no one else had seen, he said.

Nichols commanded respect wherever he went because "his air showed he could handle the situation," Hollis said.

Hollis said Nichols, whom he had knows since 1941, was strongly influenced by his father, W.F. Nichols, who came to Sylacauga as an agriculture teacher and became principle of Sylacauga High School.

"If you knew his daddy, you could see the cut of the gentleman the son followed after," he said.

Nichols left his mark all over Sylacauga. Hollis said Nichols served on numerous boards, including the Sylacauga school board, before he was elected by Congress. He helped guide Sylacauga smoothly through school desegregation and his name is engraved on plaques at several schools built during his time on the board.

Members of the afternoon coffee club at Mac & Ted Drugs a half-block from City Hall agreed. The group—about 15 to 20 retirees, businessmen and city officials who gather daily at the downtown store—usually talks about politics and problems, but yesterday was eulogizing Nichols, who used to drop by to chat when he was in town. "He's the finest man I've every known," A.L. Beckett said. "His life was an open book."

Beckett and other coffee drinkers remembered Nichols as a straightforward, fair man who never lost his love for Sylacauga. James Ivey said it was not uncommon for Nichols to spend time driving around town, seeing how things were going for his hometown. Although stunned by Nichols' death, Beckett and Ivey said they did not believe Nichols would want his friends to grieve for him long. "He lived a full life," Ivey said.

But Barber H.C. White, who frequently cut Nichols' hair, could not help feeling a little sad. "You couldn't beat him—a wonderful man," he said. "We're sure going to miss him." White said Nichols had been getting his hair cut at the downtown shop, now known as Dwayne's Barber Shop, for decades and had come in for a cut just a few weeks ago.

The congressman, he said, did not like the haircuts he could get in Washington. "He said he'd rather get it cut back where he got it cut as a boy."

City Clerk John Newberry felt Nichols' death as both a longtime friend and a relative. His wife, Joyce, is Nichols' niece and the Newberrys watched the Nichols' house when Congress was in session.

"I kind of wanted him to retire, but I don't know what he would have done," said Newberry, himself preparing to retire. "He would have been miserable."

U.S. Representative William F. "Bill" Nichols

1918: Born October 16 on a farm near Becker, Miss. Later moved to Sylacauga.

1939: Graduated, Auburn University, a bachelor's degree.

1941: Earned master's degree, Auburn University.

1942: Entered U.S. Army

1944: Stepped on a land mine during fighting in Hurtgen Forest, Germany. Lost his left leg.

1947: Discharged from Army, returned to Sylacauga where he became president of cotton gin and fertilizer companies.

1958: Elected to the state house of Representatives.

1962: Elected to the state Senate

1966: Elected to U.S. Congress representing the 3rd District.

1968: Named to the Auburn University board of trustees.

1981: Supported President Reagan's income tax cut.

1983: Took over chairmanship of House Armed Services investigations subcommittee and conducted inquiry into bombing of Marine compound in Beirut. Turned down request of other Democrats to run for chairmanship of the full Armed Services Committee.

1984: Led investigations subcommittee probe of Pentagon procurement program after reports of $400 hammers and $6,000 toilet seats.

1986: Underwent quintuple heart bypass surgery, University Hospital

1988: Won re-election to Congress for 12th term.

1988: Died December 13 of a heart attack in Washington office.

[Alexander City (Ala.) Outlook, December 14, 1986]

Representatives Bill Nichols Dies of Heart Attack

Alabama Congressman Bill Nichols, a courtly white-haired statesman known for his support of the American military and the textile and apparel industry, died of a heart attach in Washington, D.C., Tuesday morning.

The news stunned Alexander City and Alabama.

The 12-term congressman suffered a heart attach about 7:10 (EST) a.m. and collapsed in his office in the Rayburn House Office Building. He was rushed to a hospital on Capitol Hill but died there a short time later.

Tom McMahon, the congressman's press secretary, said Nichols was found by Flora Merchant, an 80-year-old aide who had worked for the congressman for 17 years.

She found him unconscious and lying face down at his desk.

His body is being flown back to Alabama for funeral services in Sylacauga Thursday.

Services will be at the First United Methodist Church in Sylacauga, 105 Spring St., at 1 p.m. December 15, McMahon said the Reverend J. Charles Boling, a lifelong friend, will officiate. He said the funeral is open to any friend, associate or constituent of the congressman.

He is survived by his wife, the former Carolyn Funderburk, a native of Tallapoosa County; two daughters, Margaret Vlachos of Athens, Greece, and Memorie Mitchell of Birmingham; a son, Flynt Nichols of Dallas; and three grandchildren.

Alabama Governor Guy Hunt ordered flags in the state lowered to half-staff in honor of Nichols.

Nichols underwent triple-bypass surgery in 1985 but had been in good health in recent years. McMahon said he was scheduled to drive home for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday.

Nichols, a Democrat, was first elected to Congress in 1066 after serving in the Alabama Legislature. He was chairman of the House Armed Services Investigations Subcommittee.

Representative Ben Erdreich, D-Alabama, said Nichols will not only be remembered for his 22 years in Congress, but for his work on behalf of the military.

"On defense matters, he was without parallel . . . a real leader," Erdreich said.

The 70-year-old Nichols was known for his long working hours. Erdreich, who said he was shocked by the news, said Nichols was the kind of Con-

gressman who "always came in early. Sometimes we kidded him about getting to work early to see that the last acre of his farm was plowed."

Erdreich said he last saw NICHOLS Monday night at President Ronald Reagan's annual Christmas ball at the White House and was shocked at the news of his death.

A spokesman for NICHOLS' office said the congressman had been hunting on Monday.

"It was something he loved to do," said Congressman Bill Dickinson, a colleague of NICHOLS for 20 years.

NICHOLS was born on a farm near Becker, Miss., on October 16, 1918, but grew up on a farm near Sylacauga.

He was a graduate of Auburn University, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1939 in agriculture and a master's degree in 1941. He also was captain of the football team.

During World War II, NICHOLS was injured when mine exploded while he was fighting in Europe. He underwent 19 operations and eventually lost his left leg from the knee down. He was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Prior to going into politics he was president of Parker Fertilizer Co. and the Parker Gin Co. in Sylacauga. He served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1959 to 1963 and in the state Senate from 1963 until 1966 when he was floor leader for Governor George Wallace.

NICHOLS had never been seriously challenged in an election. He easily won re-election in the fall, gaining more than 90 percent of the vote, against Libertarian candidate Jerome Shockley.

OFFICIALS SAY DISTRICT LOST GOOD FRIEND

Shock and surprise was how most reacted to the news of the death of Congressman BILL NICHOLS Tuesday.

The 22-year veteran of the U.S. House of Representatives was struck down by a heart attack in his office in Washington, D.C., at 7:15 a.m. Tuesday. He was a longtime member of the House Armed Services Committee and was a recognized expert on military and veterans affairs.

Local, state and national leaders Tuesday praised NICHOLS for his leadership and patriotism, and mourned his death.

Alabama Governor Guy Hunt called NICHOLS a "tireless public servant who made Alabama proud."

"BILL NICHOLS served Alabama proudly as one of the state's best congressmen. He loved his state and his people, and the people of Alabama loved him. He will be missed," Hunt said.

"He was a great patriot and a friend of all veterans. He gave so much in defense of his country."

Russell Corp. Vice President Dick Dickson said NICHOLS was a special friend to the textile and apparel industry.

"It's a tragic loss, a tragic loss for the textile and apparel industry and a loss to our country," he said.

"BILL NICHOLS was a stalwart and a dedicated supporter of the goals and objectives which have made our textile industry No. 1 in the world."

"He was a patriot among patriots as far as his love for country. He will be missed."

Red Loyd, a longtime Democrat from Alexander City who worked on several Nichols campaigns, said NICHOLS was like Alabama's legendary football

coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant. "It will be impossible to replace him," he said. "Nichols was just a fine, fine man."

Congressman Bill Dickinson, who served in Washington, D.C., with Nichols for 20 years, and his wife for dinner at President Ronald Reagan's Christmas ball Monday, and he said Nichols appeared to be in good health.

Dickinson said he and Nichols discussed a hunting trip Nichols had taken earlier Monday, and a physical the congressman was scheduled to take next week.

He said Nichols appeared to be in good health, but he and his wife left the ball early because he was tired after hunting most of the day.

Dickenson said he will miss Nichols' dependability.

"You always knew you could count on him, and if he said he was going to do something, it would be done," Dickinson said.

"Bill and I not only have adjacent congressional districts and have had for 20 years, we also have adjacent offices here (in Washington). As a consequence we've seen each other practically on a daily basis for the past 20 years.

"The thing I will miss most, and the thing that will be missed by most people, is his stability and just good sense," Dickinson said. Alabama Representative Jack Venable, who served as an administrative assistant to Nichols for four years, said he was shocked to learn of Nichols' death.

"It really came as quite a shock," Venable said. "The last time I saw him he looked extremely well, he was feeling good."

"He just told me last week he was going goose hunting in Maryland." Venable said he will remember Nichols as a strong-willed, dependable man, one who cared deeply about his family and his country, and one who stood by veterans.

He said one reason Nichols was such a staunch defender of veterans's issued was because of his experiences during WW II. Nichols lost a leg when he stepped on a landmine, and spent several weeks in a veteran's hospital.

Despite his handicap, however, Venable said, Nichols was determined to not let it slow him down.

"He didn't wear it on his sleeve," he said.

He said Nichols was one of the most beloved representatives by his constituents that Venable has ever known.

"It'd be impossible for anybody to replace him. Someone will replace him someday, but it'll be impossible for anybody to fill his shoes."

Carlton Smith Jr., president of the Alexander City Council and the county's Department of Veterans Affairs liaison, worked with Nichols on veterans issues on several occasions, and he agreed that Nichols will be hard to replace.

"I just feel we lost a friend," Smith said. "Not only the veterans, but all the people of the country lost a friend."

He said Nichols was concerned about economic development and larger issues facing his district, but he also paid particular attention to individuals.

"He went so far one time as to take time out of his busy schedule for a woman I'd seen down to Washington, D.C., on an appeals case," Smith said. "He spent an hour and a half on the stand for her."

"He's just one of the finest gentlemen I've ever met."

Alexander City mayor Charles Bailey agreed.

"He's been a real friend to the city," Bailey said.

"We're going to miss him and I especially am because he was the real source of knowledge of what was going on in Washington."

Bailey said NICHOLS supported many projects in Alexander City and the surrounding area, and took a special interest in his constituents. Coosa County Probate Judge Jasper Fielding said Coosa County also has lost a good friend.

"It's real regrettable because he has certainly helped the people in Coosa County with any problems they had," Fielding said.

"He was a good congressman and a good friend."

NICHOLS SUPPORTED MILITARY

Congressman BILL NICHOLS, who died of a heart attack in his Washington, D.C., office early Tuesday, was a staunch supporter of the U.S. military.

But congressional leaders said Tuesday that he used his influence and chairmanship of the House Armed Services investigations subcommittee to keep a close watch on spending by the Pentagon.

NICHOLS pushed through legislation requiring stricter Defense Department documentation for purchases from contractors after much-publicized reports surfaced of $400 Navy hammers and $5,000 Air Force coffee pots.

Legislation he authorized also prohibited defense contractors from billing the government for expenses such as country club dues and lobbying costs.

NICHOLS also chaired the congressional probe into the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Marine barracks in Lebanon which killed 241 Americans. That investigation uncovered problems in the military chain of command which prompted NICHOLS to begin pushing for a reorganization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NICHOLS and Senator Barry Goldwater, R-Arizona, co-authored legislation known as the "Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act" that provided the most far-reaching overhaul of the upper levels of the military since World War II, several congressman said Tuesday.

The legislation strengthened the authority of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the heads of the nation's joint commands while reducing the power of the individual uniformed service chiefs. It also made hundreds of changes in military procedures.

Representative Tom Bevill of Jasper, who served with NICHOLS for almost 30 years in the Legislature and Congress, said NICHOLS took a lot of heat for that legislation from the Pentagon.

"But he held the line," Bevill said. "And in my judgment this legislation will prove to be one of the most important changes made in the armed services in this century."

Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci said in a statement that NICHOLS "was a true friend of the military and a respected member of the House Armed Services Committee."

Representative Bill Dickinson, a Montgomery Republican who served on the Armed Services Committee with NICHOLS, said his biggest contribution was "lending support for a better and stronger national defense."

[Birmingham Post-Herald, December 16, 1988]

NICHOLS REMEMBERED WITH HONOR, RESPECT

(By Michaelle Chapman)

SYLACAUGA.—Wanda McElrath brushed away tears as she watched a military honor guard ceremoniously fold the flag that had draped over U.S. Representative BILL NICHOLS' coffin.

Miss McElrath was not one of the dozens of dignitaries who attended NICHOLS' funeral yesterday at First United Methodist Church. She described herself as one of the "little people" that NICHOLS took time to help.

Speakers at NICHOLS' funeral, which was attended by about 1,500 people, eulogized him as a man who paid attention to the needs of everyday people.

"He was respected . . . But, you see, BILL NICHOLS respected others," said U.S. Representative John R. Kasich, R-Ohio. He said NICHOLS treated everyone—including janitors and freshman Republican congressmen—with equanimity.,

Reverend J. Charles Boling remembered NICHOLS as "a master of his trade. He had a way of reaching in and touching people because he was a master."

Miss McElrath agreed, recalling her first experience with the congressman, who died of a heart attack Tuesday. That was in January 1973, when she was an eighth-grader at East Highland Junior High School. Knowing that their school needed a new American flag, students decided Miss McElrath should speak to NICHOLS about the problem.

She did approach him one day in downtown Sylacauga. "I was afraid to go talk to him . . . (but) when I did, it was easy," she said, smiling at the memory.

Not only did NICHOLS send a flag to Miss McElrath, but he followed up with a personal letter after a local newspaper had run a photograph of students saluting the new banner.

A flower arrangement in the shape of a U.S. flag and another of the Auburn University emblem stood at NICHOLS' graveside in the Marble City Cemetery, where NICHOLS was buried in a family plot.

U.S. Representative G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., read a letter from President-elect George Bush, who called NICHOLS "a very special guy. . . . His good will and kindness were an example" for those who came in contact with him.

Montgomery said he first met NICHOLS 22 years ago at an orientation session for freshman congressmen. He said he respected NICHOLS deeply and that the late representative would be most remembered for chairing the investigative subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee.

NICHOLS, who was football captain at Auburn University, was a decorated Word War II veteran who lost a leg when he stepped on a land mine in Europe.

Kasich said NICHOLS, who was 70 when he died, was in constant pain because of his war injuries, but never complained.

Kasich told NICHOLS' wife, Carolyn, that her husband was like an oak tree—strong and sturdy—and that he would always remember the twinkle in the older man's eye when he smiled.

NICHOLS was a special person to many people in Sylacauga, the Talladega town of 13,000 where he had lived since childhood.

After the 1 p.m. funeral, dignitaries and family were joined at the graveyard by local citizens like Miss McElrath, who either had not attended the funeral or had been unable to get inside the sanctuary. Many of the onlookers wore work or casual clothing, including baseball caps, sweat pants and blue jeans. They stood silently along the fence line and behind plastic streamers that had been strung on both sides of the grave site to keep the crowd at bay.

Family members crowded under a green tent awning and quietly listened as an honor guard fired a 21-gun salute and a bugler played "Taps." Every-

one watched as the pallbearers folded the flag and presented it to Mrs. Nichols.

Boling said a short prayer, his words lost in the wind before they reached bystanders. Then the family solemnly filed out into the gray afternoon.

[Dadeville (Ala.) Record, December 15, 1988]

Bill Nichols Will Be Missed

In 22 years in Washington, Bill Nichols never got Capitol Hill fever. That's the malady that strikes so many congressmen and senators. They go to Washington, D.C., and suddenly think they're more important than they really are. It's the kind of thing that gets them un-elected.

That never happened to Bill Nichols. Twelve times the good people of Alabama's Third Congressional District returned the Sylacauga Democrat to the House of Representatives.

Every election was a landslide victory. The latest was in November when he captured more than 9 out of every 10 votes cost.

Nichols truly was a man of the people who never considered himself more important than the people he was elected to represent.

On Tuesday morning, the 70-year-old Nichols died, struck down by a heart attack in his office on Capitol Hill.

He will be terribly missed by the people of the Third District. We mourn him as a friend, a great public servant and as a leader. All of Alabama shares in the loss.

Nichols was a senior member of the House Armed Services Committee and was recognized as an expert on military affairs. He co-authored legislation that led to the most significant overhauling of the U.S. military since World War II. That legislation bears his name, a singular honor for a congressman.

When he took over as chairman of the subcommittee on investigations it was widely believed that he would be an unflagging supporter of the Pentagon. Instead, he led hard-hitting probes into irregularities in the Defense Department procurement process. Nichols was the man who put an end to $400 hammers and $5,000 coffee pots.

Yet, as his influence in Congress grew he never forgot the people who elected him. He was accessible and always concerned. He was the kind of man who returned his own phone calls.

Nichols never forgot the fact that he grew up on a farm and would refer to himself as an ol' sharecropper. In truth, he was a graduate of Auburn University with bachelor and master's degrees in agriculture. The school's new ROTC building bears his name.

He was a champion of the textile and apparel industry and was proud of the fact that as a young man he worked in the cotton mills in Sylacauga. Better than most, he understood the challenges facing that industry and knew well the role government needed to play to ensure its success.

The twice decorated Nichols (Bronze Star and Purple Heart) lost a leg during Word War II, but he never let that slow him down.

He was a hard worker who came to work early and stayed late. He was a man of strong conviction who believed a man's word was a bond. He was the kind of congressman every district should be blessed with having.

We shall miss him.

[Dadeville (Ala.) Record, December 15, 1988]

Bill Nichols Dies in Washington

OFFICIALS MOURN DEATH

Shock and surprise was how most reacted to news of the death of Congressman Bill Nichols Tuesday.

The 22-year veteran of the U.S. House of Representatives was struck down by a heart attack in his office in Washington, D.C., at 7:15 a.m. Tuesday. He was a longtime member of the House Armed Services Committee and was a recognized expert on military and veterans affairs.

Local, state and national leaders Tuesday praised Nichols for his leadership and patriotism, and mourned his death.

Alabama Governor Guy Hunt called Nichols a "tireless public servant who made Alabama proud."

"Bill Nichols served Alabama proudly as one of the state's best congressmen. He loved his state and his people, and the people of Alabama loved him. He will be missed," Hunt said.

"He was a great patriot and a friend of all veterans. He gave so much in defense of his country."

Russell Corp. Vice President Dick Dickson said Nichols was a special friend to the textile and apparel industry.

"It's a tragic loss, a tragic loss for the textile and apparel industry and a loss to our country," he said.

"Bill Nichols was a stalwart and a dedicated supporter of the goals and objectives which have made our textile industry No. 1 in the world."

"He was a patriot among patriots as far as his love for country. He will be missed."

Congressman Bill Dickinson, who has served in Washington, D.C., with Nichols for 20 years, said he and his wife joined Nichols and his wife for dinner at President Ronald Reagan's Christmas ball Monday, and he said Nichols appeared to be in good health.

Dickinson said he and Nichols discusses a hunting trip Nichols had taken earlier Monday, and a physical the congressman was scheduled to take next week.

He said Nichols appeared to be in good health, but he and his wife left the ball early because he was tired after hunting most of the day. A spokesman for Nichols' office said the congressman had been hunting on Monday.

"It was something he loved to do," said Congressman Bill Dickinson, a colleague of Nichols for 20 years.

Nichols was born on a farm near Becker, Miss., on October 16, 1918, but grew up on a farm near Sylacauga.

He was a graduate of Auburn University, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1941. He also was captain of the football team.

During World War II, Nichols was injured when a mine exploded while he was fighting in Europe. He underwent 19 operations and eventually lost

his left leg from the knee down. He was awarded a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Prior to going into politics he was president of Parker's Fertilizer Co. and Parker's Gin Co. in Sylacauga.

He served in the Alabama House of Representatives from 1959 to 1963 and in the state Senate from 1963 to 1966 when he was floor leader for Governor George Wallace.

NICHOLS had never been seriously challenged in an election. He easily won re-election in the fall, gaining more than 90 percent of the vote against Libertarian candidate Jerome Shockley.

[Birmingham Post-Herald, December 19, 1988]

IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DISLIKE NICHOLS

(By John Brinkley)

There is a tendency in our society to ascribe to the recently deceased qualities and traits we had not ascribed to them in life. In other words, we sometimes remember them as a little more likable than they had really been.

To speak ill of the newly departed—well, that just isn't done. So, mean-spirited people are remembered as having been victims of their environment, of cruel social forces beyond their control. The anti-social are remembered as having "marched to the beat of a different drummer."

But in the case of the late BILL NICHOLS, no subtle revisionism is required. We need not reinterpret his negative traits, because he didn't have any. At least, none that I ever saw.

NICHOLS who died suddenly last Tuesday morning while at work in his congressional office, was the most gentle and humble sort of person. It was impossible to dislike him. He was, I often thought, the sort of guy of which there are too few in the hallowed halls. Reminding oneself of what a very decent man he was has always been a great cure for the cynicism that daily exposure to members of Congress can engender.

Not a genius, he was smart. Not a gifted orator, he was engaging. Not dynamic or charismatic, he was amiable and friendly.

Pick a member, any member, and ask him a question. Chances are, you'll see the little wheels turn as he grapples it the politicians' dilemma: how can he answer you in a way that is (a) personally fortuitous, and (b) not a lie so glaring that you can catch him at it.

With NICHOLS, though, it was always different. You asked him a question, he answered it.

In 1986, he achieved what most House members retire wishing they had achieved: passage of major, sweeping legislation with his name on it. The Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act brought about a thorough restructuring of the command hierarchies of the Pentagon and the military services.

When other members manage to turn such an ambitious idea into reality, there invariably follow a flood of press releases, a news conference, picture-taking sessions with the president with the member's wife and kids in tow, a bill-signing ceremony.

But other than calling the bill his "proudest achievement," and then only in response to a question, NICHOLS spent nary a minute aggrandizing himself. He had other things to do.

NICHOLS loved to work and he loved to hunt. When he died, at age 70, he was working. With Congress not even in session, he was in his office, working at his desk at 7 a.m. His wife, Carolyn, had dropped him off there, as was their usual practice, since they only owned one car. The day before, he had been hunting. And none of his little maladies—his hearing impairment, his heart trouble, his artificial leg—ever got in his way. He lost his right leg to a German land mine in World War II.

Representative Bill Dickinson, R-Montgomery, was one of NICHOLS' closest friends, partly by virtue of his representing an adjacent congressional district and occupying an adjacent Capitol Hill office. The two were neighbors for two decades and saw each other almost every day. In reminiscing on their friendship, Dickinson remembered a day when the two of them, as members of the Armed Services Committee, were inspecting a new Army tank.

"I remember one time we were together, and we were looking at a tank, and he climbed up on the tank," Dickinson said. "There was this serviceman up there. I don't know who the serviceman was, a young fellow. And something happened, and BILL's (artificial) leg caught in the foothold, and the harness pulled out. And there was his prosthesis sticking in the stirrup, so to speak, of the tank. And he turns to this young soldier there and he says, 'fella, hand me my leg. I've given one leg in the service of my country and I don't want to give another one.' "

That was BILL NICHOLS. No vanity, no pretensions. I, along with everyone else who had the good fortune of knowing him, will miss him a lot.

[Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser, May 24, 1989]

HONORING NICHOLS

One of the late U.S. Representative BILL NICHOLS' chief purposes in Congress was the nurture and support of Anniston Army Depot, the huge Army material center in his congressional district.

Representative NICHOLS died in office in December of a heart attack after 21 years in Congress. Monday, the industrial sector of the sprawling defense complex was named for him in a ceremony at the depot, where about 2,900 workers maintain and refit tanks missiles and small weapons.

The caliber of the man can be measured by the personal tributes in NICHOLS' honor delivered by U.S. Senator Richard Shelby, U.S. Representative Tom Bevill, and NICHOLS' successor Glen Browder.

Renaming the heart of Anniston Army Depot the Bill Nichols Industrial Complex is a very appropriate memorial.

PANAMA PERFORMANCE DEMONSTRATES VALUE OF NICHOLS' WORK

(By Michael Brumas)

A sweeping reorganization of the Pentagon that was a crowning achievement of the career of Representative BILL NICHOLS played a key role in the success of the U.S. invasion of Panama, according to military experts.

The invasion, carried out by U.S. forces during the early morning hours of December 20, is the first combat test since passage of the reorganization act, which was named in honor of NICHOLS and then-Senator Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz.

"The Goldwater-Nichols reorganization bill that passed (in 1986) . . . played a big role (in the Panama invasion) in two or three aspects," Senator Sam Nunn, D-Ga., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said recently.

Experts said the Panamanian invasion was a sterling success when compared with the 1983 U.S. invasion of Grenada, and the ill-fated Beirut mission, in which 241 Marines were killed when their barracks were blown up that same year.

Although the American forces did not immediately capture General Manuel Antonio Noriega, there were no stories out of Panama like the one about a U.S. officer in Grenada who, because of a communications breakdown, used his telephone credit card to phone the Pentagon so that orders could be relayed to the battlefield.

Also unlike Grenada, where each branch was competing against the others for a piece of the action, there were no stories of inter-service rivalries in Panama.

STILL SENSITIVE

Pentagon officials, sensitive to criticism of the Grenada invasion, are reluctant to give too much credit to Goldwater-Nichols for the success of the Panama invasion and say that comparing the two actions is like mixing apples and oranges.

Defense officials say that in Panama the military had a longtime presence, knew the problems there and had years to prepare contingency plans to protect U.S. interests in case of trouble.

In Grenada, there was no ground presence and the military had only 48 hours to prepare after President Reagan decided to invade.

Nunn, however, was told by senior military officials involved with the planning of the Panama invasion that the reorganization act contributed to the success of the operation, said Arnold Punaro, staff director of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Last week, the second highest-ranking officer in the U.S. military, General Robert T. Herres, who is vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, acknowledged that the command and communications aspects of the Panama invasion were much more streamlined than in Beirut and Grenada.

"Clearly, the Panama operation was easier to plan, easier to deal with at the National Security Council by virtue of Goldwater-Nichols and the chairman's (of the JCS) increased authority and broadened role, he said.

The idea behind reorganization was to shift power from the separate military services to the officers and commands intended to coordinate them. Before that, many felt that the services' parochial interests blocked the Pentagon's ability to prepare for and fight a war, and deprived the president of coherent military advice.

The most important feature of the reorganization act was that it made the chairman of the JCS the principal military adviser to the president, the secretary of defense and the National Security Council. Before passage of the reorganization act, this task was a corporate function of the Joint Chiefs.

The JCS consists of the uniformed chief of each service plus the chairman. Critics said that members of the committee often acted in the interests of their particular services, with advice often a muddy compromise.

"This was perceived as cumbersome because a committee can't supervise as efficiently as a single individual," said Herres.

Nunn told reporters that Colin Powell, chairman of the JCS, had more authority to "execute and plan" the Panama invasion because of the reorganization and that he did not have to "get the consent of every chief of every service" beforehand, although "he did get their consent."

A DEPARTURE

"I think the missions have been allocated on the basis of what made sense," said Nunn. "That, for those who follow military history, is somewhat of a departure from previous actions."

Reorganization also enabled the president to delegate to the JCS chairman responsibility for overseeing the activities of the 10 military command chiefs,and strengthened the authority of these officers, who are the ones responsible for actually fighting a war.

"The head of Southern Command, General (Maxwell R.) Thurman, has more authority, and he executed that authority under the Goldwater-Nichols to the advantage of this operation," Nunn said.

The chiefs are responsible for military operations in specific geographic areas such as Europe, the Pacific and the Southern Command in Panama. Reorganization, for the first time, allowed them to establish their own chain of command. Before reorganization, said critics, the four services exercised undue influence over forces nominally under a chief's command.

"In Panama we had a streamlined chain of command," said Punaro. "In Beirut there were eight layers. Not only was the decision-making process encumbered, but a lot more people had their finger in the pie."

Herres' position of JCS vice chairman was created by the Goldwater-Nichols reorganization act and actually was one of the most controversial elements of the bill during congressional debate. The Pentagon opposed making the vice chairman senior in rank to the members of the JCS, but Congress decided that the vice chairman should be the second-ranking member of the military, after the chairman.

"The effectiveness of the vice chairman helping the chairman would've been considerably emasculated if that had not been done," said Herres.

Herres, who will retire next month, termed the Pentagon reorganization act a success and credited Nichols with "doing a great job in keeping things in perspective" while the dealt with a lot of "hare-brained ideas about how the Department of Defense ought to be reorganized."

LABORED FOR YEARS

As chairman of the House Armed Services Investigations Subcommittee, Nichols labored for several years on the legislation. It was a complex task—the most sweeping reorganization of the U.S. military establishment since Congress created the Department of Defense in 1947—and often an uphill battle as many senior Pentagon officials, intent on protecting their own turf, appeared before Nichols' panel to testify against reorganization.

But Nichols persevered, and Herres said one of the major reasons it finally passed the house was the Sylacauga Democrat's "determination and the amount of respect he commanded."

"People felt he had the basic credentials and the years of attentiveness to defense issues which qualified him to lead the House in developing reforms," said Herres.

NICHOLS' widow, Carolyn, said her husband ran for a 12th term in 1988 primarily to make sure the reorganization was working.

"That's the only reason he went back to Congress this (last) time," she said.

NICHOLS suffered a heart attack at the desk of his Capitol Hill office December 13, 1988. He was 70 years old.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
3 1262 04478352 9

FLARE

FLARE
31262044783529